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Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate the credibility of CUC's explanation for its power rate increases, 1 being equivalent to "highly questionable" and 10 equivalent to "totally credible"?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Outbreak

Federal officials hunt for the source of a 17-state salmonella outbreak linked to tomatoes.

NATION...Page 16

Plane Crash

A Sudanese jetliner landed in a thunderstorm and veered off the runway, bursting into flames and killing dozens.

WORLD...Page 18

JCI Trip

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela, 10 students, and two chaperones participate in the 16th Annual CNMI Students Cultural Exchange Program.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

Tinian, Rota residents exempted from driving school. **PAGE 3**

Fitial: Let the market dictate smoking ban policy. **PAGE 5**

Workers question insurance licensing as deadline nears

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

As the annual deadline nears for local insurance firms to renew their government licenses, foreign workers and labor activists on Saipan are wondering whether the Department of Commerce will let a host of insurers remain in operation despite concerns that apparent financial shortfalls have prevented them from paying worker claims.

"I have two kids… I need these unpaid wages," said one 38-year-old alien worker Wednesday outside the federal labor ombudsman's office,

See WORKERS on Page 4

Yumul drops out, Pete A. in

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The NMI Republican Party is expected to name Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio as its official candidate for the U.S. Congress today.

Yumul

Tenorio

Only two candidates—Tenorio and Rep. Ray N. Yumul—have asked the party to endorse their bid to become the Northern Marianas' first delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

But Yumul said yesterday he was dropping out of the race in view of his military duty. A member of the U.S. Army Reserve, Yumul is due for a month-long training in California starting July 14. He also expects to be deployed to Kuwait later this year.

"This is a serious election. And I probably won't be here for the most part of the campaign period. Rather than taking any chances and putting the party in a difficult situation, I have decided to suspend my bid for the delegate seat," Yumul said.

Ed Tenorio, president of the

See YUMUL on Page 4

SAGALA JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Girls and boys parade in colorful gowns and barongs from the American Memorial Park to Fiesta Resort and Spa in Garapan during the Sagala 2008 and Fiesta Filipino yesterday afternoon. The event was in observance of the CNMI-Philippine Friendship Week and the 110th Philippine Independence Day. Sagala or Flores de las Islas, is a 400-year-old Philippine Christian tradition commemorating the finding of Christ's cross by St. Helena and her son Constantine.

Muna asks Interior for $19.694M

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. needs $19.7 million for this year until 2010 for the operation and completion of its projects, mostly for the repair and upgrading of its power engines.

Muna

CUC executive director Antonio Muna told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that this was one of

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Local

'FSM has the money but is not using it'

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Federated States of Micronesia has the money, but it is not using it to spur economic growth, according to the U.S. Office of Insular Affairs.

Acting OIA Director Thomas Bussinich testified yesterday before the U.S. House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs on the FSM's implementation of its Compact of Free Association with the United States.

OIA administers the Compact, which requires the United States to grant the FSM a total of $2.3 billion in aid from 2004 to 2023. The FSM and the United States are now in the fifth year of the 20-year period of financial assistance under the Compact.

"Despite the hard work and good intentions of many, we are not satisfied with the results and outcomes that we have seen," said Bussinich.

In the past five years, according to Bussinich, the FSM has used the Compact funds more as a safety net than as a springboard for economic development. "The result is lost time, lost opportunities, a declining economy and a continuing overreliance on public sector employment," he said.

Bussinich cited the following as some of the failures on the part of the FSM government:

■ In 2004 through 2008, the FSM has completed only three infrastructure projects, and more than $67 million of the $82 million—approximately 83 percent—allocated for infrastructure grants in 2004 through 2007 remain unspent.

■ Unspent funds for education and health from 2004 through 2007 amount to an additional $14.9 million or around 7 percent of funds allocated.

■ The FSM's failure to contribute matching funds—$6 million since 2004—for infrastructure maintenance has frustrated the Compact's goal of institutionalizing maintenance practices by the governments.

■ The FSM is also facing a challenge with the FSM Trust Fund, the proceeds of which will be used for education, health, and infrastructure when the annual grants cease after 2023. As of April 30, 2008, the market value of total assets of the FSM Trust Fund was $135.91 million. Of that amount, $115.6 million represented government contributions, including $85.3 million from the United States and $30.3 million from the FSM. The return on assets during the current fiscal year from

See FSM on Page 4

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CPA emergency expiring today, extension expected

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The state of emergency declaration that is keeping the Commonwealth Ports Authority under the governor's direct control will expire today. An extension is expected.

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said yesterday that the administration will likely extend the state of emergency, as there is no board of directors to run the ports authority.

At the governor's request, the CPA board members resigned almost three weeks ago. The administration has not submitted any new nominations for the Senate to confirm.

"Until such time we appoint people to the board, CPA will have to remain under the state of emergency," said Reyes. "CPA cannot function without a board. Even its executive director, Lee Cabrera, is retiring soon. It would be hard to bring back CPA's autonomous status at this point."

On May 13, 2008, the governor issued an executive order placing the financially trouble ports authority under his direct control for 120 days. He also signed a separate order declaring CPA under a state of emergency for an initial 30 days.

The Legislature has overturned the reorganization order, but emergency declaration has kept CPA under the Governor's Office.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, however, has said CPA will revert back to board control as soon as its financial situation has been stabilized. "I…[state] without reservation that it is my intention to take all measures to terminate the emergency declaration as soon as possible and preferably within 30 days," he said.

CPA was on the verge of a technical default on its airport revenue bond when the governor took over. CPA's bond consultants had recommended measures to prevent the default, but the board of directors failed to implement them.

CUC forms panel to evaluate renewable energy proposals

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will be soon evaluating the proposals of six companies that want to provide renewable energy to CUC.

CUC executive director Antonio Muna said yesterday that the evaluation will be made by a select committee that will include technical, legal and other stakeholders from the community.

Muna said that CUC's request for proposal closed last May 16. Mailed responses reached CUC on May 28.

"We are currently getting the committee together to start considering the proposals," he told the media.

Muna identified the six companies as New Seoul Corp. and Commonwealth Industrial Supply Co. Inc., both located on Saipan; OCCEES Ocean Engineering & Energy Systems of Hawaii; Leminiscate Investment LLC of Florida; United Systems Engineering Co. Ltd. of Taiwan; and Lucid Energy Technologies LLC of Indiana.

CUC issued the RFP for development of a grid supply renewable electricity generation projects.

Under the project, CUC expects growth and development of a more comprehensive portfolio for increased energy efficiency on the islands and reduce its dependence on fossil fuels.

Muna earlier said that Gov. Benigno Fitial wants his alternative energy adviser, Dr. James Quick, to be involved in the selection process.

The renewable energy project, Muna said, is another thing that CUC hopes will happen in the next six to 12 months.

Fitial earlier disclosed that more than a dozen companies have expressed interest in the renewable energy project.

The governor said the firms are interested in submitting proposals across a wide range of green technologies, including win, solar, biodiesel, ocean waves, geothermal, among other things.

CUC in its request for proposals stated that it hopes to enter into long-term performance contracts with firms that will be fully responsible for building and running the utility's renewable power generation projects.

Tinian, Rota residents exempted from driving school

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Public Safety Commissioner Claudio K. Norita has directed DPS Tinian and Rota resident directors to exempt their residents, including alien workers, from undergoing driver education.

Norita issued the directive to address the current lack of private driver education schools on the two islands.

A recently passed law, Public Law 15-22, requires first-time applicants for driver's licenses to finish a course in driving school before applying for and taking the driver license exams and driving test.

Norita said the exemption shall be granted only to residents of the two islands who have CNMI voter registration cards.

Norita said that Tinian and Rota residents may also show proof of residency by providing two supporting documents such as utilities, TV, telephone, or Internet billing showing billing address on the islands.

Nonresidents workers, he said, are required to provide a copy of their current employment contract and Immigration and Labor identification cards showing residency.

The commissioner said that foreign national workers may also show a notarized statement from the employer, stating that the worker has met the residency requirements on the islands.

For students, he said, they must provide a notarized certificate of attendance from their respective high schools under the Public School System.

For students attending the Northern Marianas College on Tinian and Rota, Norita said, they shall provide a certificate of attendance from NMC, signed by the resident administrator or registrar.

The commissioner required the resident directors to provide a written report to him on a weekly basis listing exempted applicants, documents used for proof of residency and copies of the issued CNMI driver license of the applicants.

Norita has been working on the implementation of the law that will require all first-time driver license applicants to undergo driver education at a DPS certified school.

Norita and Bureau of Motor Vehicles director Juana Leon Guerrero collaborated with Driver Training Academy's Richard Puhalla to complete the driver education project, which began in August 2006.

Public Law 15-25 or the Mandatory Driver Education Act of 2006 was enacted on May 5, 2008. The Acts' rules and regulations have been submitted, approved, and adopted.

The enforcement of the Act commenced on June 2, 2008. After that day, all first-time driver license applicants are required to complete 30 hours of classroom and six hours of laboratory instruction at a DPS certified school.

Similarly, the students will need to log 24 hours of additional behind-the-wheel practice accompanied by an adult who is licensed to drive in the CNMI.

The students' ability to parallel park will also be evaluated.

The age requirement for enrollment in a driver education course is 15 and a half years.

Under the law, no student will be issued a driver license prior to reaching his or her 16th birthday.

P.L. 15-25 also mandates that individuals wishing to obtain a license to drive a taxi must complete the course, as well as anyone whom the court considers a repeat traffic and or DUI offender.

Those individuals who obtained a learner's permit prior to June 2, 2008, are exempted from attending the classes, according to DPS.

BOE to discuss criteria for COE position

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

The Board of Education has scheduled a special board meeting this morning and one item on the agenda is to discuss the selection criteria and announcement of the Commissioner of Education position.

BOE chairwoman Lucy Blanco-Maratita said the BOE will be taking up matters relating to the recruitment efforts beginning today. "It is our goal to have someone in place before the school year opens in September," she added.

Education Commissioner David Borja's last day was on June 4, 2008. He recommended Jackie Quitugua, associate commissioner for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Service, to the BOE as his replacement.

Blanco-Maratita said there are no potential candidates at this point and until the BOE announces the position, only then the board will know who among those that apply will be considered.

She stressed that the selection of the new commissioner will be made by the full board and not by one person.

When asked what prompted the BOE to ask for Borja's resignation, Blanco-Maratita said, "Such matters were discussed in an executive session. …Suffice it to say that the commissioner is hired by the board and serves at the pleasure of the board. Under the Constitution, the board is given the responsibility of formulating education policies and administering the school system through the commissioner."

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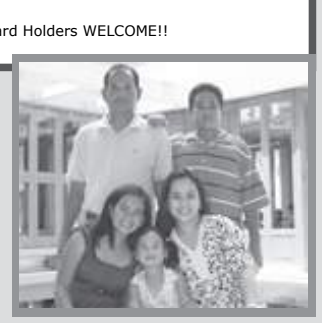
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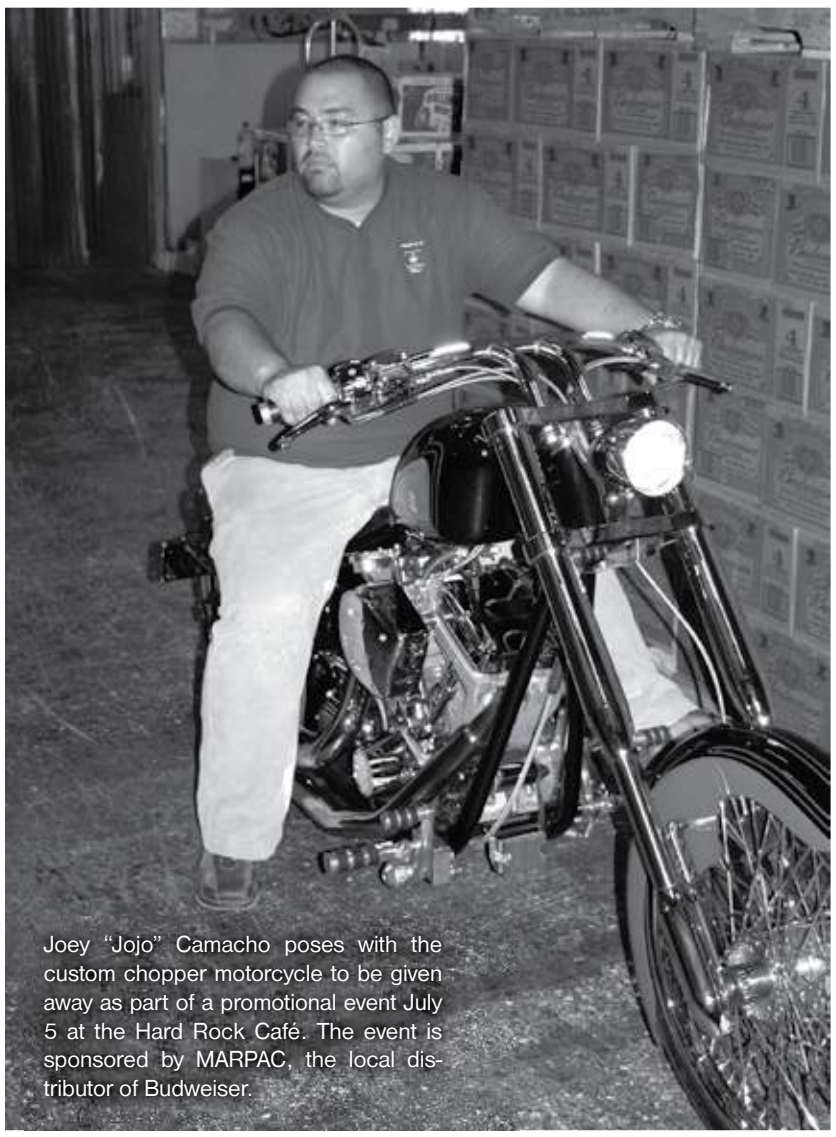
Custom motorcycle giveaway set for July 5



Joey "Jojo" Camacho poses with the custom chopper motorcycle to be given away as part of a promotional event July 5 at the Hard Rock Café. The event is sponsored by MARPAC, the local distributor of Budweiser.

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

A local Budweiser distributor is gearing up to give away a custom-built chopper motorcycle next month with a roaring engine that is sure to turn heads on Saipan.

The giveaway, slated for July 5 at the Hard Rock Café, is part of a promotion for MARPAC, or Marianas Pacific Distribution Inc.

Marketing manager JoJo Camacho unveiled the chopper inside the company's Saipan warehouse Wednesday and fired up its deafening 107 cubic inch, 1,750 cc engine.

The chopper is a "very smooth" ride with "solid power," according to John Shimicu, who works with the company's branch on Guam and took the bike for a cruise down Beach Road and Middle Road earlier in the day.

To win the motorcycle, a Callahan Custom Chopper valued at about $30,000 and fitted with special LED lights, contestants merely have to purchase 12 packs of Budweiser, Bud Light or Bud Ice and find the scratch card inside it. In addition to the grand prize, the cards give customers the chance to win hats, chamois and a variety of other items.

The promotion comes as MARPAC, like countless other businesses on Saipan, is dealing with obstacles like rising utility costs, high fuel prices and increasing deliver costs.

"The climate, it's challenging for everyone, but we have some very loyal customers and this is our way of giving back," said marketing manager Joseph "JoJo" Camacho.

Yet the company plans to persevere."Like every other company out there, we're faced with challenges but we're doing promotions like this and we're in it for the long haul," said manager Joey Garrido.

FSM

From Page 2

Sept. 30, 2007 to April 30, 2008 has been about –5 percent.

"In conclusion, the FSM faces very serious challenges," Bussinich said. "Its challenges are not resources; it has the financial resources to implement a large and important program of improvement to schools, health facilities and other critical infrastructure, with beneficial effect for the FSM's economy. What the FSM needs is the will to use its resources as a springboard to better sector performance and improved economic growth."

YUMUL

From Page 1

NMI Republican Party, said Yumul's withdrawal from the race automatically leaves Pete A. Tenorio as the GOP nominee.

The party will have a general membership meeting at 6pm today at the Garapan Central Park. Tenorio's nomination will be formalized in the meeting.

Another previous candidate, attorney Victorino Torres, has also pulled out of the contest for the GOP endorsement.

Tenorio will face at least five other candidates in the Nov. 4 election, most of them running independent. They are Sen. Luis Crisostimo, retired judge Juan T. Lizama, Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Gregorio Sablan, television talk show host John Oliver Gonzales, and businessman Patrick M. Calvo.

Under the delegate act, Northern Marianas will have a representative with limited voting powers to the U.S. House of Representatives. He can serve on committees, as well as vote on legislation at the committee level. But floor voting will not be permitted.

Similar to House members and other delegates, the CNMI delegate will be elected to Congress every two years.

The first election will take place this November. To be eligible, a candidate must be at least 25 years old, a U.S. citizen and CNMI resident for at least seven years before the election, and a qualified CNMI voter on the date of the election. A candidate for CNMI delegate must not be running for any other office.

MUNA

From Page 1

the topics they discussed with the visiting Office of Insular Affairs officials on Tuesday at the Governor's conference room.

He explained that of the $19.694 million they are asking for, only $1.2 million—representing the balance of the $6.5 million federal funds that have already been given—is currently available.

That $1.2 million, he said, is needed to buy power engine parts, for professional power generation management (technical assistance), and supervision of ongoing contracts.

CUC recently requested $3.894 million from OIA to buy parts and equipment required to support the contract with DCM that will bring down CUC's share and allow it to purchase parts for at least two power engines. Muna said the request for $3.894 million has been made and OIA continues to consider it.

"Hopefully they will respond positively to our request. If not then of course we have to source funding elsewhere in order to continue dealing with DCM," said Muna during yesterday's press briefing.

CUC's contract with DCM is $5.1 million, which the utility agency has to pay out of its revenues.

The CUC report also mentioned $200,000 that is needed for technical assistance for power, water, and wastewater rate filing, representation, and public hearing.

Another $1.4 million will be allocated to buy additional parts required to support the balance of the rehabilitation of the power engines.

Some $1.2 million will be used to expedite the integration of renewable energy, upgrade the interconnection of facilities and incorporate net metering.

CUC also needs $4.3 million for its oil master plan, which includes rehabilitation of tanks, piping, incinerator and bring the power generation into compliance with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency orders with proper response equipment.

Muna said $7.5 million would fund the conversion of engines to heavy fuel oil, including the conduct of an air emission study, tank fuel handling, exhaust stack rehabilitation, and auxiliary improvement for four power engines.

"We're looking at converting four of the engines from diesel to heavy fuel oil," Muna said.

He conceded that the OIA officials did not advice CUC whether there was going to be additional money coming in since the discussion was more of a status report of where CUC is right now.

He said they addressed four points: the status of CUC power generation at present, current power rate and increasing fuel rates, road to recovery, and funding of capital improvement needs and technical assistance.

Under the road to recovery plan, Muna said they sketched out how CUC is going to move forward with meeting the power demand and other items in the next year or so.

Under the funding of capital improvement needs and technical assistance, Muna said they gave a status report on how CUC spent the $6.5 million that OIA gave CUC in the fall of last year. "How much of that money has been spent and essentially what else do we need in going forward to finance this road to recovery," he said.

With respect to road to recovery topic, Muna said they addressed four issues: meeting demand, delivering reliable power at the least amount of cost, achieving financial stability, and training.

"We essentially outlined four tasks that CUC needs to venture on in order to realize a turnaround in its fortunes with respect to delivering reliable power and at the same time achieving financial stability," he said.

WORKERS

From Page 1

which deals with foreign worker and immigration issues. "I have two kids and this is very hard," she said, adding that she now has to make regular trips to the ombudsman's office during the only hour she has free from work.

Foreign workers in the Commonwealth often receive insurance, purchased in the form of surety bonds, from their employers as a safeguard should the businesses where they work fold. The bonds can provide unemployment payments, sometimes as much three months' worth, and often money for an airline ticket to return them to their home country.

Yet according to local insurance industry and labor sources, many firms on the island lack the fiscal solvency to pay such claims, leaving workers to pursue payment through the CNMI Department of Labor, which recently has begun diverting many workers with grievances to the island's small claims court.

Now, the CNMI Department of Commerce's annual deadline for insurance companies to renew their business licenses—slated for the end of June—is drawing near and labor observers are curious whether several companies that reported steep financial deficits in a 2005 report will once again win approval.

"The biggest question is: Why is the government allowing these companies to operate when they can't pay on these bonds?" asked Irene Tantiado, president of the Coalition of United Workers, a local labor group, in an interview Tuesday.

These deficits, often six-figure sums, would be enough for regulators and insurance associations on the U.S. mainland and elsewhere to forego renewing an insurance company's license until they could obtain more money to back the bonds they sell. But lax regulation by the local government, however, has allowed some companies to get away with selling surety bonds that they cannot pay, "ultimately to the disadvantage of the insured," the source says.

According to the 2005 Commerce survey, at least four local insurance companies reported financial deficits greater than the capital they had available and three others also reported negative surplus figures. Most of those companies remain in business.

Whether the information in the report is still accurate remains uncertain because Commerce has yet to finalize at least two years' worth of insurance industry data, which companies submit to it on an annual basis. In an interview Wednesday, Commerce might have figures for the 2006 data available in the coming weeks, pending an approval of their release by the governor's office, according to Secretary James Santos.

Most of the insurance companies listed in the Commerce report as having deficits did not immediately respond to requests for comment. However, a representative with one company, Oceania Insurance Corp., said the company now has a more than $6 million surplus and is "downsizing" the wage and labor bond segment of its business.

Meanwhile, Santos said it is unclear whether the companies at issue in the 2005 report now meet Commerce's standards for renewal of their license. Commerce "wouldn't renew their licenses if they weren't in compliance with what's required under our regulations," Santos said. "We have to look at their financial solvency and their status to decide that."

Insurers can get an insurance license from the CNMI Department of Finance, but "they cannot by law be selling insurance policies if they don't have a license out of Commerce," Santos said.

Explaining the backlog in the department's analysis of insurance firm data, Santos said it is largely due to a shortage of key technical staff at Commerce, among other issues.

Lillian Pangelinan, a banking administrator with Commerce, added that the staff taken from other segments of the department to deal with insurance firm issues faces a "learning curve," which is one reason why Commerce has "not been aggressive" in pursuing enforcement action against insurers.

There is "a shortage of staff to go in and do the examinations needed to shut [insurance companies] down," she explained. The department, however, has begun "slowly moving towards" resolving those issues. "There's something in the works," she said. "Normally, what we expect is for Labor to advise us. Part of the reason we continue to issue these licenses is that we have not heard anything" negative about the companies from that department, she added.

But until a solution to these problems surfaces, workers will likely continue pursuing their unpaid wages through the local and federal government.

"I hope that everyone who has these unpaid wages can get them somehow," said the worker at the ombudsman's office.

'Let the market dictate smoking ban policy'

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, who had been reluctant to support a smoking ban proposal, yesterday welcomed the recent move by some local restaurants to turn smoke-free.

Shirley's Coffee Shop, Tony Roma's and Capricciosa are some of the private dining establishments that recently banned smoking in their premises.

"I believe in free market forces and I applaud the private sector's voluntarily response to growing market demands for greater standards of public health and safety," said Fitial, a non-smoker.

Fitial had earlier expressed reluctance to approve a bill to ban smoking at all CNMI restaurants, saying such a move could harm the Northern Marianas' tourism industry. Smoking is common in the Commonwealth's top tourism markets such as Japan, Korea, and China.

The governor argued that strict smoking bans have been put into effect in California and Hawaii, both popular travel destinations for many tourists, and some opponents of a CNMI-wide smoking ban may wish to give the Northern Marians a limited competitive edge.

"I am glad more companies in our private sector are voluntarily responding to public calls for a smoking ban," said Fitial. "I prefer that this matter be resolved through private voluntary actions reflecting true market demand instead of having the government paternalistically dictate certain rules on private properties."

Fitial maintained that businesses and their customers should decide whether smoking bans should be in effect at different business establishments.

"Some establishments may cater to smokers while others may prefer to attract non-smokers," he said. "The CNMI should maintain a market for both customer groups by maintaining maximum freedom of choice among business establishments and their valued customers."

Tribes Bar in the Century Hotel also recently instituted a smoking ban on selected days in response to customer demands.

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. noted that a smoking ban is now in effect at many government offices, including the CNMI Legislature, but the ban is not strictly respected or enforced at certain offices. He said the case would likely be different with commercial establishments.

"Although smoking bans may be routinely violated at some government offices, they would most likely be strongly enforced if legally applied to private establishments," he said.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSITION	LOCATION	JVA NO.	
Laboratory Specialist	CUC Water Lab., Saipan	08-017	Opening Date: 6/11/08 Closing Date: 6/13/08
Laboratory Technician	CUC Water Lab., Saipan	08-018	Opening Date: 6/11/08 Closing Date: 6/24/08

For detailed information on the duties and responsibilities and the minimum qualifications, please visit the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Room 13.

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SSHS freshman wins 'Ties That Bind' essay tilt

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Saipan Southern High School freshman garnered top honors in the "Ties That Bind" essay contest that explored the historical and contemporary relationship of the CNMI, the Philippines, and the United States.

Anne Mariel M. Flores, 15, won first place honors in the contest and got the chance to read aloud her essay during last Sunday's Philippine Independence Day flag-raising ceremony.

Her victory also won her a round-trip ticket for two to the Philippines where she will get the chance to tour the Malacañang Palace and other places of interest in Manila. A possible face-to-face meeting with Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is also in the works.

Flores is the daughter of Oscar and Marikita Flores, who hail from Pangasinan and Tarlac provinces in the Philippines.

Second place winner was ninth grader Kevin Bautista, who got $300 cash prize, while tenth grader Hazel Marie Doctor won third spot for $200. Both are students of Mount Carmel School.

Sponsored by the NMI Council for Humanities and the Philippine Consulate General, the contest required students to describe the historical and contemporary connections that bind the CNMI, U.S. and the Philippines in 1,500 words or less. It was held as part of celebrations for the 110th Independence Day of the Philippines, which is being observed today, June 12.

Essays were scored by a panel of judges who will consider content and logic, vocabulary and grammar. The judges included Council's Program Director Scott Russell, Council's former executive director William Barrino, and Dr. Emmanuel Lleva.

The main thing that stood out in Flores' essay, according to Russell, "was the fact that she made the pre-Spanish connections between the Marianas and the Philippines. She was the only essayist that picked up those connections that go back thousands of years."

Flores said that as she was doing her research for this year's Philippine Independence Day essay contest, she learned a great deal of information by asking her elders and reading history books.

However, "the questions of skin color, similarities of names, customs, and traditions are just the basic questions that could not be answered by reading history books," Flores said. And that "answers to questions relating to controversial issues such as federalization, land alienation, and abuse of guest workers could go further beyond that point."

Flores said answers are not exactly found by "merely reading history books but by understanding and accepting the fact that the ties that bind these countries are still very much intact today."

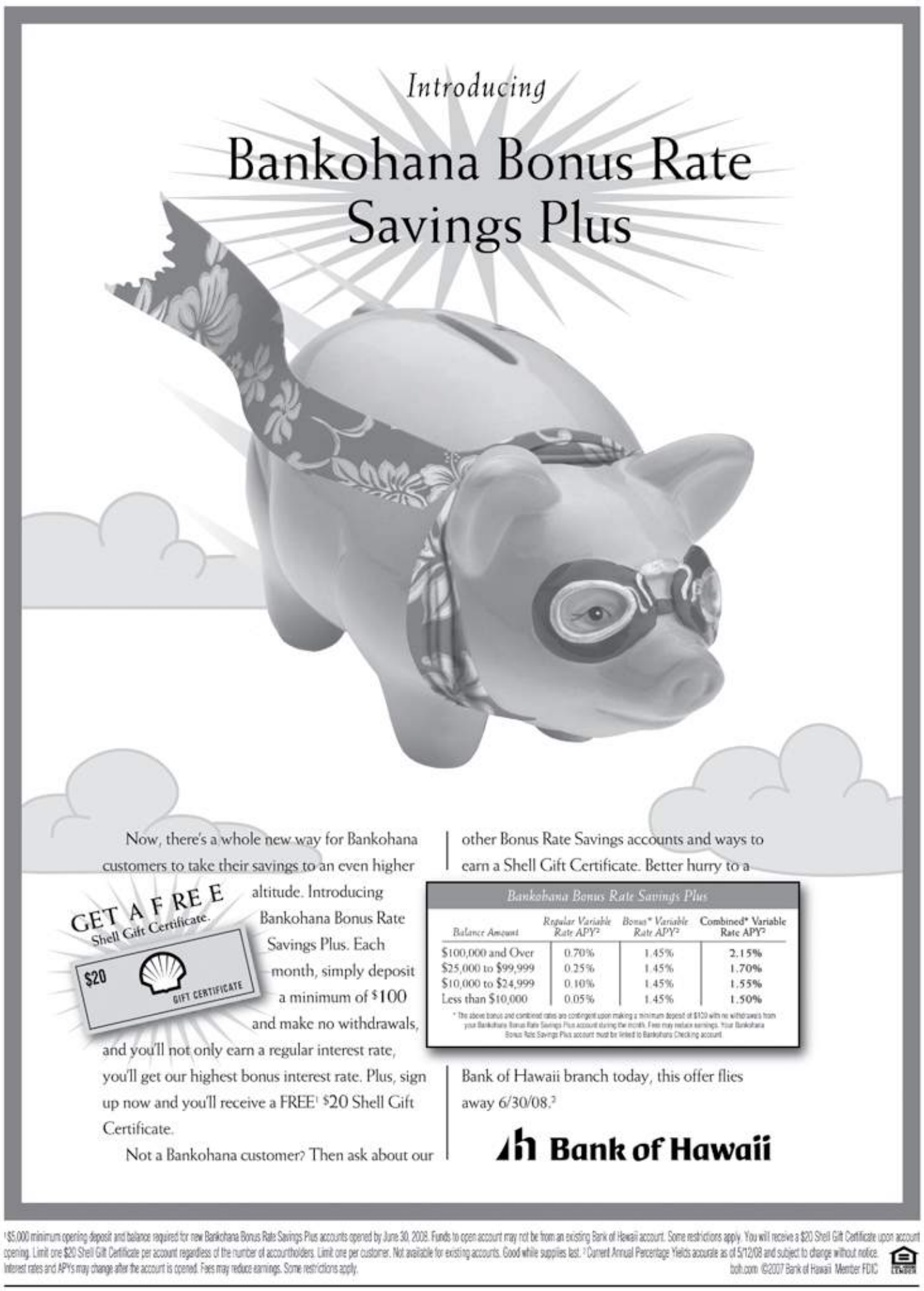
The incoming sophomore said that the community cannot ignore or erase the bond that ties them together, "because it is a part of history written not by ink alone but by the blood of our forefathers."

"There is no need for a Dekada Movement, Taotao Tano Movement, Human Dignity Movement, Unity Movement and the likes, if only each one understands that this bond makes us brothers belonging to just one family," Flores emphasized.

According to Consul General Wilfredo DL Maximo, "the contest provided an excellent opportunity to explore and reaffirm the depths of the historic ties that have long existed between the CNMI, the United States, and the Philippines."

Russell said that overall, "the students did very well."

Council board member Gaskins said the committee hopes to encourage more activities in succeeding years that would allow the youth to connect with their historical and ancestral ties.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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kiara Mafnas is shown here with her sister, Marian.

Kiara Mafnas is honored with scholars' society membership

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Another local student was recently recognized for her academic achievements and her continued efforts to achieve academic excellence.

Saipan resident Kiara Mafnas was selected for membership in the National Society of High School scholars—an invitation given only to students who have superior academic achievement and are among the top scholars in the nation.

With her selection, the Danbury High School student, who has an extended family on Saipan, is eligible for various scholarships offered only to members of the Society. Other valuable benefits include opportunities for networking, events, and publications, among others.

Her induction was announced by NSHSS honorary chair Claes Nobel, a senior member of the Nobel Prize family.

"On behalf of NSHSS, I am honored to recognize the hard work, sacrifice, and commitment that Kiara Mafnas has demonstrated to achieve this exceptional level of academic excellence," Nobel said. "Kiara Mafnas is now a member of a unique community of scholars—a community that represents our very best hope for the future."

NSHSS president James Lewis also extended his congratulation to Mafnas on her scholastic achievement and her membership into the dynamic organization.

"Our vision is to build a dynamic international organization that connects members with meaningful content, resources, and opportunities," Lewis said. "We aim to help students like Kiara Mafnas build on their academic successes and enhance the skills and desires to have a positive impact on the global community."

As a member of NSHSS, Mafnas is now qualified to enjoy a wide variety of benefits, including scholarship opportunities, academic competitions, free events, member-only resources, publications, participation in programs offered by educational partners, online forums, personalized recognition items, and publicity honors.

Mafnas is the daughter of Eric and Velma Mafnas and Yvonne and Paul Van Allen.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Attention all active duty and Reserve family members

There will be a Joint Family Support Assistance Program briefing at the Army Reserve center on Friday evening, June 13, at 6pm. Three members of the JFSAP team from Hawaii will conduct the briefing to discuss many new services being offered to families and to answer questions about the various support programs.

For more information contact the American Red Cross at 234-3459. ***(PR)***

Storage tank public meeting reminder

The Division of Environmental Quality will hold a stakeholder meeting on Tues, June 24, 2008, at the Multi-Purpose Center for all aboveground and/or underground storage tank owners and operators.

To access the existing underground and aboveground storage tank regulations, visit the DEQ online at www.deq.gov.mp.

Registration is recommended and can be made by emailing environment@deq.gov.mp or calling the DEQ office at 664-8500 before Friday, June 20. ***(DEQ)***

SSHS Summer Class schedule

To all parents/legal guardians of Saipan Southern High School students, Summer Class will start next week. Session one will be from June 16, 2008, to July 11, 2008, 8am to 12pm/12:30pm to 4:30pm. Session two will start from July 14, 2008 to Aug. 8, 2008. ***(PR)***

Rota waters get green flag

The Division of Environmental Quality has analyzed water samples collected from Rota's recreational beaches and storm water drainages this week and none of the samples contained excessive concentration of fecal indicator bacteria nor did they exceed the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. Therefore, DEQ assigns all of the sampled sites a green flag. Enjoy our waters.

DEQ analyzed samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water from 12 locations on the island of Rota this week as part of regularly scheduled sampling. DEQ welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any questions concerning this matter. (DEQ)

Hopwood summer school

The Hopwood Junior High School announced that its Summer School would be from June 9 to July 18, from 7:30am to 1:30pm. All students who received notices and calls from school or received letters at home must report to school. If you have three or more absences, this is grounds for repeating the entire grade level next school year. ***(PR)***

KHS Q4 card issuance schedule

Attention parents and guardians of Kagman High School students: We are informing you that the 4th quarter report card issuance for Kagman High School is scheduled for Monday, June 16, 2008, from 8am to 2pm in the school library. We would also like to inform you that the Summer School classes for English and Math will start on June 10, 2008 (Monday) at 8am to 12pm. ***(PR)***

CNMI Scholarship Office deadline

Application deadline for all applicants to the Educational Assistance Program: New, ongoing, or returning is July 1. Deadline for supporting documents is Sept. 30.

Application and supporting Documents deadline for PL 14-37 Honors Scholarship Program is June 30.

For more information call 664-4750 or visit www.cnmischolarship.com. ***(PR)***

MHS Class of '83 reunion meeting

The 1983 MHS Class Reunion Steering Committee is asking all MHS Class of 1983 graduates to attend our last general meeting to get an update on the status of our upcoming reunion.

The meeting will be held Friday, June 13, 2008, 7pm, at the Kilili Beach Pavilion, Civic Center, Susupe

You may contact any of the Steering Committee Members for details.

Tonnei Camacho: 483-9665
Viola Kaipat: 483-0214
Ed Camacho: 483-5262
Jane Tudela: 234-9571
Frances Mildred Cruz: 483-0995
Ester Teregeyo: 236-9777
Ben Sablan: 287-1480
Diego Songsong: 287-4300

Live fire training on Farallon

The Emergency Management Office, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas Guam, said that the U.S. military would be conducting live fire training on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla on June 11 – 15, from 6am to 2am.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, EMO is advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. ***(EMO)***

LibDay parade applications now open

The 2008 Liberation Day Steering Committee is now accepting applications for the upcoming 2008 Liberation Day parade. Interested individuals, companies and/or organization may pick up an application at the Marianas Visitors Authority office from Monday to Friday, 8am – 5pm. The deadline to submit all application forms is June 27, 2008, no later than 5pm. For more information, contact Frank Tudela at (670) 664-3200/01 or e-mail via ftudela@mymarianas.com. ***(PR)***

Benito Clan reunion meeting

This is to inform the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Vicente Gogue Taitano and Juan Gogue Taitano—the "Benito Clan"—that the next meeting for the "Benito Clan" will be on June 18, 2008, at the residence of John and Michelle Tagabuel in Pasgua Court, Dandan, at 6pm.

Family members are urged to please attend this important meeting. For more information you may contact Eleanor Aldan Cepeda at 483-6358 or Cecilia Taitano Celis at 285-0607. (PR)

New Call-A-Ride bus schedule

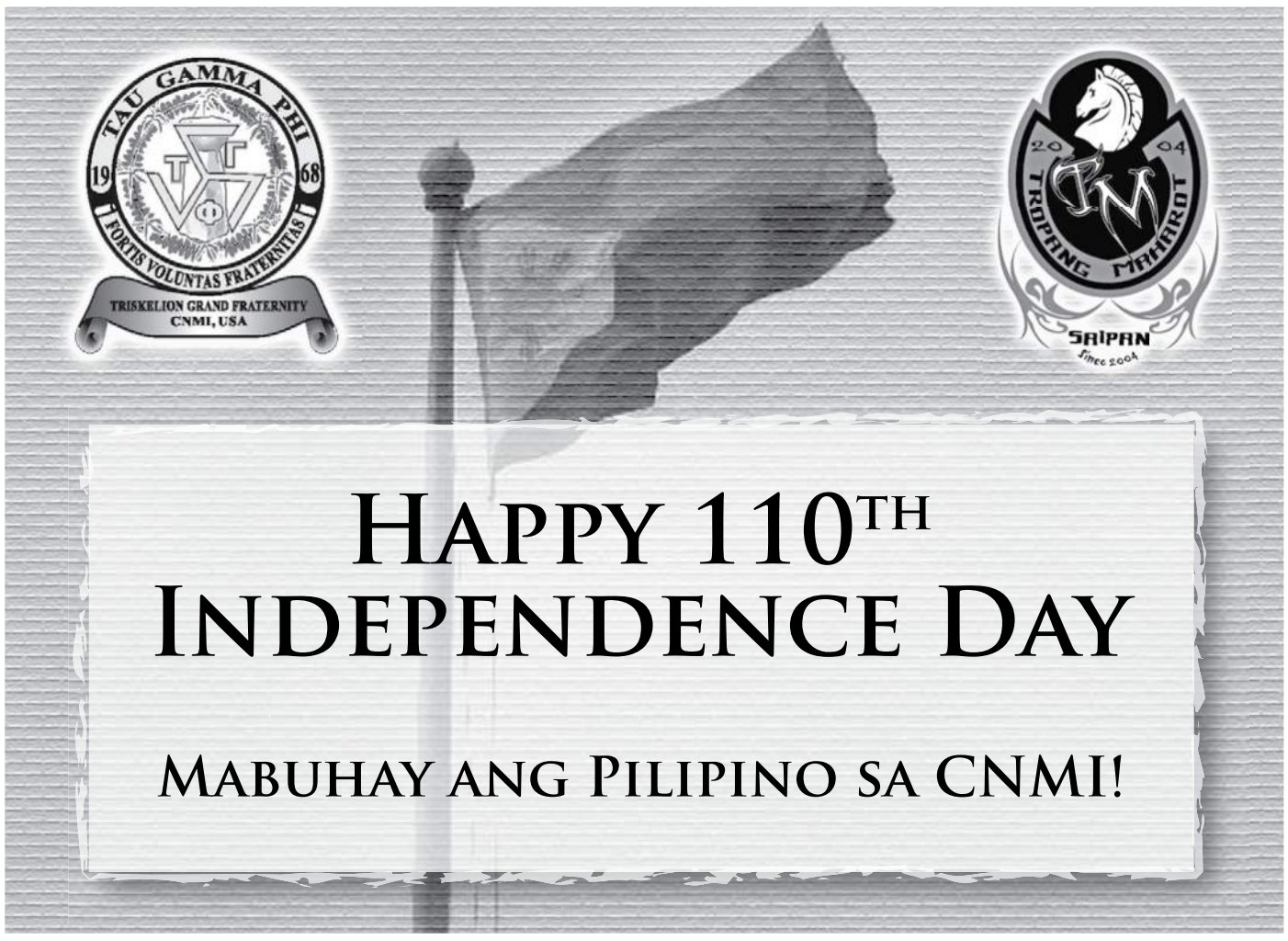
The CNMI Association of Families with Disabilities is informing all Call-A-Ride customers of the new Call-A-Ride bus schedule:

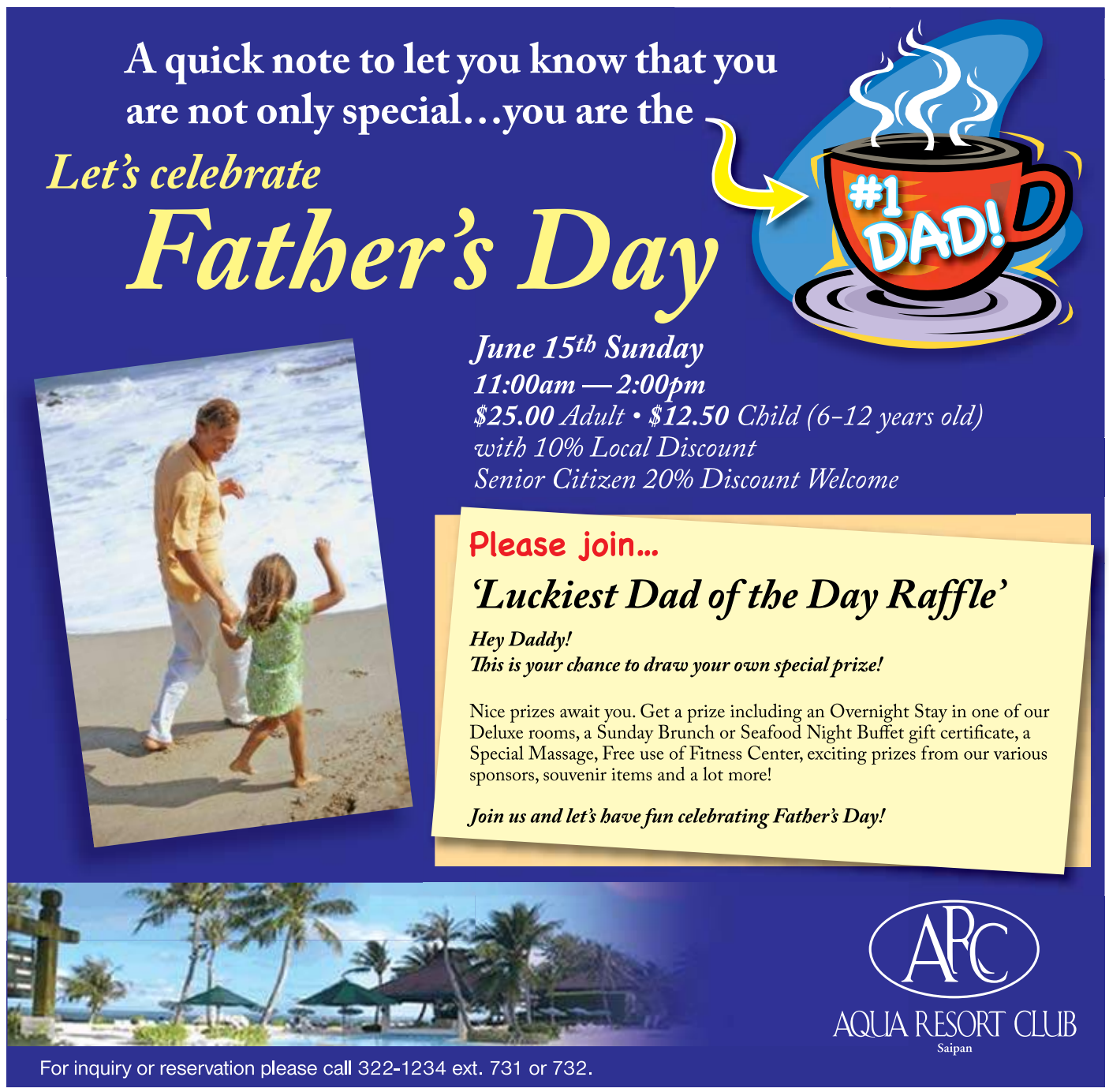
Monday to Saturday: 6am to 9pm

Sunday: Off

The bus fee is $2 one way and $4 for round trip

Contact Willdrow Cabrera or Steve Camacho at cell number 483-9013/9078. ***(PR)***

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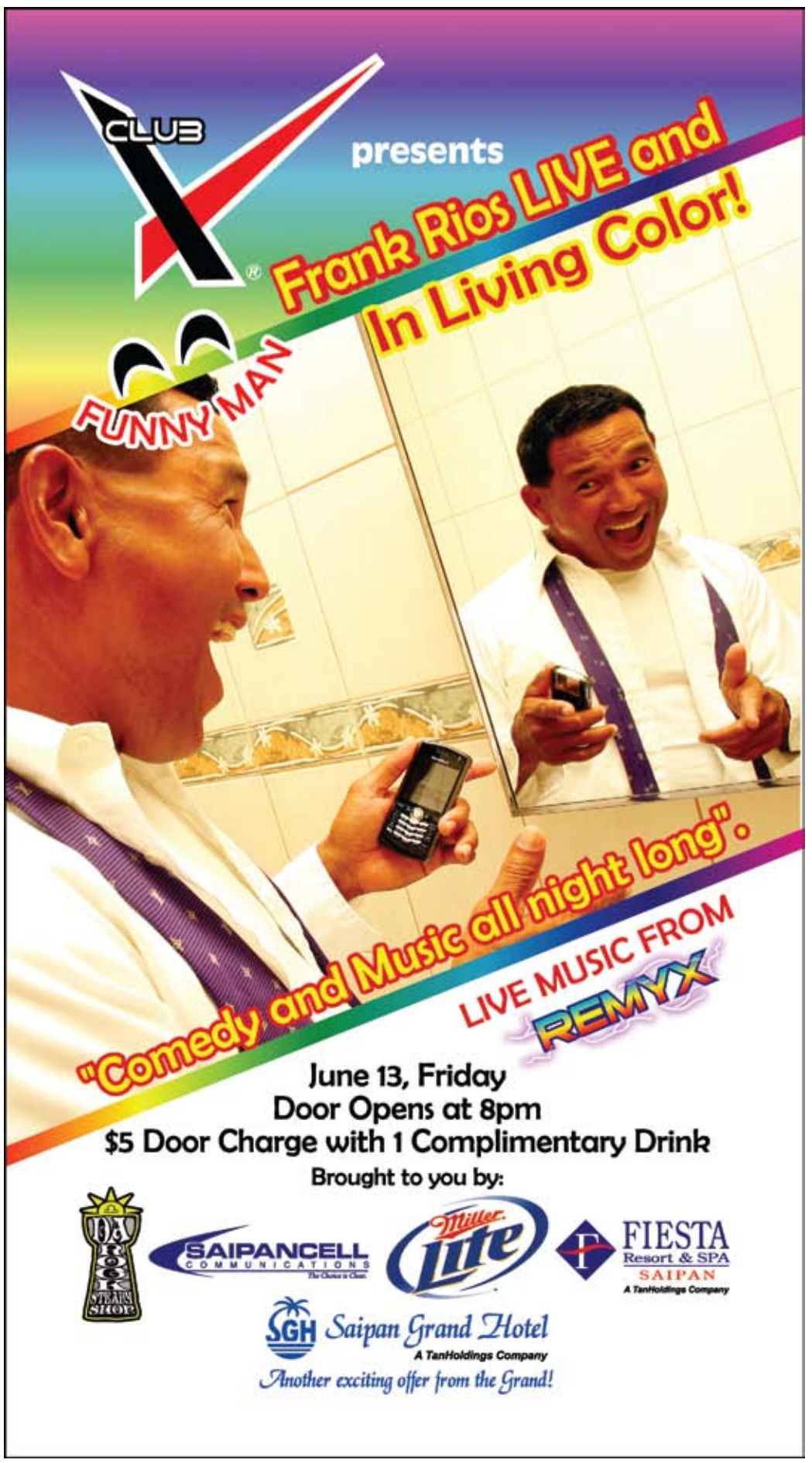
FHB DONATION JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ

First Hawaiian Bank gives a donation worth $1,250 to Grace Christian Academy as educational tax credit. Shown here is FHB branch manager Vicky Concepcion handing over the check to Cora Casabella, GCA business administrator at the bank's Oleai branch.



2 brothers in CK riot sentenced

By FERDIE DELA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court sentenced yesterday to prison two brothers who had clashed with another group of men in Chalan Kanoa, resulting in one person being stabbed.

Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja sentenced Sipson K. Ludwig to three years in jail, all suspended except for eight months without parole for aggravated assault and battery.

His brother, Sos K. Ludwig, was sentenced to six months in prison, all suspended, for rioting.

Naraja

The judge gave the 18-year-old Sipson Ludwig credit for the 153 days that he has already served in jail.

Sipson Ludwig will be released on Sept. 10, 2008. He was placed on three years probation and required to pay $1,376.65 as restitution to the victim plus $300 in probation fees, $250 fine, and $100 court fees.

Naraja placed Sos Ludwig on six months probation and required him to pay a $125 fine and court assessment fee. He also required Sos Ludwig to perform 40 hours of community service.

During the probation period, the 22-year-old Sos Ludwig will not be allowed to consume any alcoholic beverages.

Sipson Ludwig was charged with assault with a dangerous weapon and riot. He and his lawyer, Danilo Aguilar, signed a plea agreement with the government, represented by assistant attorney general Jeffery Warfield Sr. Sipson Ludwig pleaded guilty to the amended charge of aggravated assault and battery.

Sos Ludwig was charged with riot. He and his lawyer, Edward Arriola, signed a plea agreement with Warfield. He pleaded guilty to the charge.

According to the plea agreement, on Jan. 10, 2008, Sipson Ludwig was involved in a fight with Patrick Torres and others.

During the fight, Sipson Ludwig caused serious bodily injury to Torres in the form of lacerations to the body, necessitating medical treatment at the Commonwealth Health Center.

During the same incident, the agreement stated, Sos Ludwig "did assemble with Sipson Ludwid and Onochew Iata and placed others in fear by use of force, violence, loud noise, shouting or threats."

Police said the fight happened at the parking lot of Heng Da Store between 12:15am and 1:28am.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 12, 2000

U.S. owes CNMI over $100 million
The United States owes the CNMI government over $100 million in total funds for the reimbursement of the Compacts of Free Association's fiscal impacts to the local coffers from 1986 to 1999, official records obtained from Capitol Hill disclosed. A summary of the Compacts' estimated financial impacts indicated that the Commonwealth government coughs up an average of $15 million every year to subsidize various social services delivered to citizens of the three countries signatory to the agreement with the U.S.

Bush presidency means better ties with CNMI
The chief of Republican candidate George W. Bush's presidential campaign for the Pacific islands stressed the importance of his victory in the November elections to improving strained relations between the federal government and the CNMI. T.E. Manase Mansur, liaison of the Bush for President committee for American Samoa, Guam and the CNMI, said the Texas governor has a track record of supporting local government.

GOP reaffirms unity
The Republican Party is gearing up to maintain its majority hold in the CNMI as potential candidates to next year's elections pledge to uphold unity despite the outcome of the forthcoming primary. GOP held its first ever fund raiser as a party this year and get together last Saturday at the Royal Taga Beach Club. While the venue was not full packed, organizers said they were satisfied with the turnout and the money they raised from the $30-per-head tickets.

June 12, 2001

Telecom commissioners sworn into office
The newly-created Telecommunications Commission will meet with the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to discuss issues faced by telecom industry players in the Northern Marianas. CUC once handled telecommunications matters in the Commonwealth, until the Legislature cooked up the idea of establishing a panel especially tasked to look after the industry.

MVA thumbs down calls for longer Taste of the Marianas
The Marianas Visitors Authority thumbed down proposals that the annual Taste of Marianas be extended from its current month-long calendar into a two-month food festival. MVA Deputy Managing Director Vicky J. Benavente said extending the Taste of Marianas to two months would simply cost too much and dilute the attractiveness of the event.

3 firms submit bids for Managaha concession
The Office of Public Land is expected to come up with a decision on the submitted bids for the commercial development of the Commonwealth's premiere tourist attraction, Managaha Island. Public Lands Administrator Bertha C. Leon Guerrero expects a decision from the board of directors on who among the three companies that have submitted bids will be granted the concession to operate the resort.

June 12, 2002

US visa holders don't need ATB
Labor and Immigration Secretary Joaquin A. Tenorio yesterday said U.S. visa holders, regardless of their nationality, may freely enter the Commonwealth without securing Authorization to Board letters or ATBs. Tenorio said the department has adopted an emergency regulation exempting U.S. visa holders from the requirement of securing ATBs, and that the visas would be honored even if the traveler did not have an ATB.

A spectacular show in the sky
Shortly after sunrise yesterday, the sun and the moon presented a spectacular sky show that awed hundreds of tourists and residents on Saipan and Tinian, and thousands more in Pacific countries-from Indonesia to California. On Saipan and Tinian, the solar eclipse started its 8,700-mile journey across the Earth on a clear sky at 7:55am. With the sun still high in the sky, a dark moon shadow crept slowly upward, taking a small bite out of the glowing yellow orb about an hour and a half before sunset.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Congress should aid the jobless

Of all the grim new economic numbers to emanate from the federal government of late, none was more depressing than Friday's report that unemployment in May reached 5.5 percent, up from 5 percent in April. This was the largest one-month spike in 22 years. And even though much of it was caused by an unusual increase in the number of new, young unsuccessful job-seekers, the higher rate is also a sign that the Great American Jobs Machine is sputtering — and a possible harbinger of recession. There are now 8.5 million Americans who want work and cannot find it, an increase of 1.6 million in the last year, according to the Labor Department.

Obviously, the long-term solution is to restore the economy's vitality, which has been badly undermined by the housing slump. The Federal Reserve has taken the lead on that front, through interest rate cuts and other measures, but the rising threat of inflation handcuffs the Fed now. Congress, too, has already passed $168 billion worth of economic stimulus; the first tax rebate checks are making their way to households around the country. Yet rising gas prices will gobble up much of this injection, and it is not clear that measures to prop up housing, which are being debated in Congress, will have much effect on the overall economy.

Extending unemployment benefits from 26 weeks to 39 weeks should have been in the original stimulus package; it is the best arrow left in Congress' quiver. Not only would it help cushion the blow of joblessness to those laid off through no fault of their own, but economic studies suggest that unemployment benefits stimulate the economy because they are quickly spent on goods and services. The Senate has passed an extension of unemployment benefits by a veto-proof majority, as part of a larger bill funding military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. But the House's Democratic leaders are considering dropping it from a similar bill because their party's conservative "Blue Dog" faction worries about the cost: about $1 billion a month, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

It's true, as the Bush administration and other opponents say, that even at 5.5 percent, unemployment is not high by historical standards and that some workers will choose to stay out of work if they know that they'll keep getting benefits. In Europe, lush unemployment benefits have, indeed, created long-term joblessness. But the CBO suggests that such effects are still relatively weak in this country and get weaker as the unemployment rate rises; a temporary extension would hardly institutionalize sloth. Let the House separate an unemployment benefits extension from the Iraq-Afghanistan bill. One way or the other, however, the measure deserves to pass.

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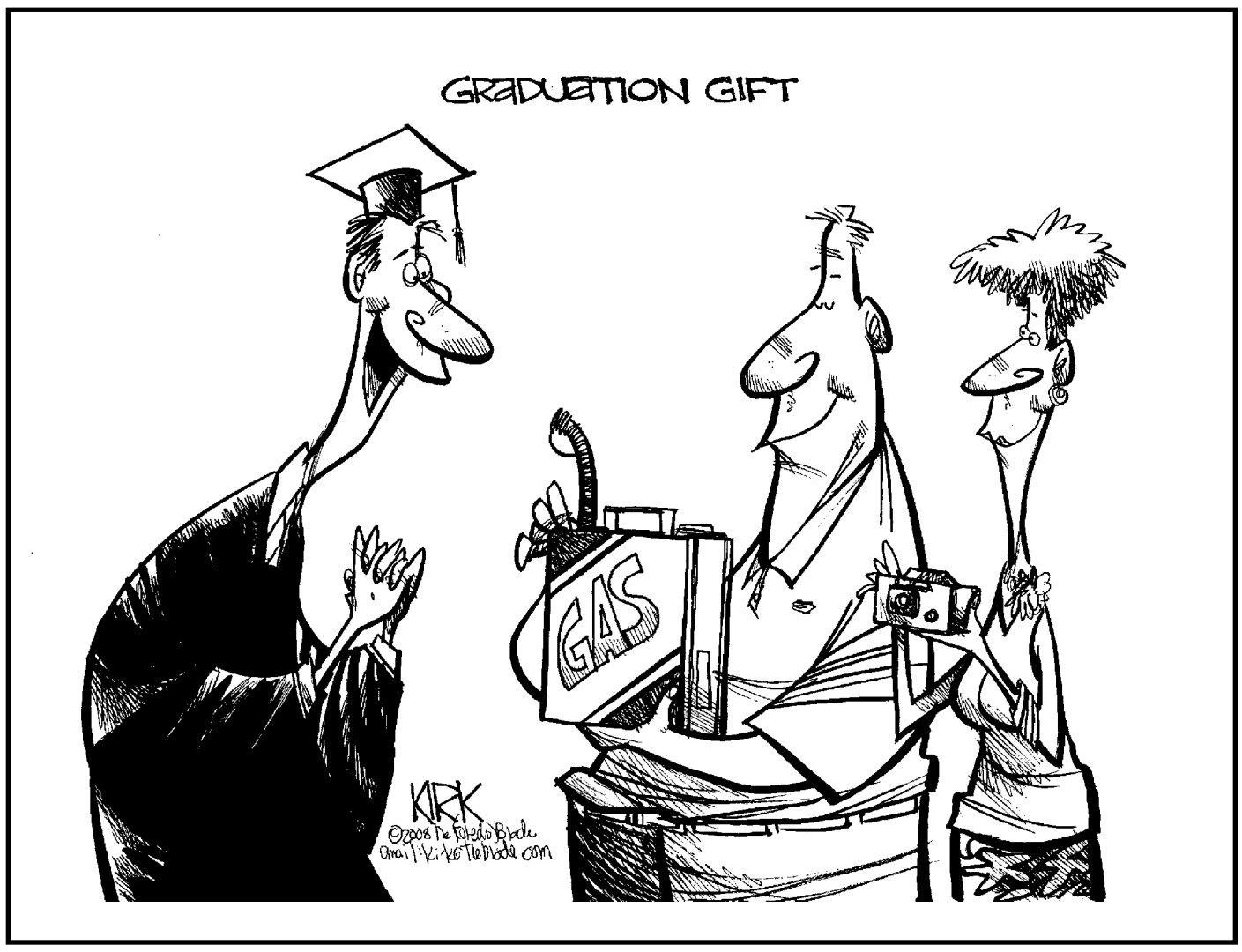


Superman returns…to Saipan

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.

With all the doom and gloom that dominates the news, it's refreshing to learn about someone doing something inspirational. Last Saturday night, we met a mild-mannered gentleman who returned to Saipan to complete a superhuman roundtrip feat that has not been accomplished by anyone.

We asked James H. Bell if his first historic swim across the Tinian channel 27 years ago was submitted to the Guinness Book of World Records. He said that it was, but they decided not to print it because they felt it was too dangerous and they didn't want to encourage others to attempt to swim across the channel. The strong currents and shark-invested waters make it difficult for even small boats to make it across.

Jim was in the Navy and stationed on Guam when he tried to get leave to swim the channel the first time, but the Navy denied his request when they discovered his intentions. Undeterred, he waited three months to retire so he could make the trip as a civilian in July 1981. When he left the shores of Saipan, the weather was good and the tides were favorable; however, it didn't take long for the currents to change and turn the waters into a dangerous torrent.

Jack Angello was living on Saipan at the time and covering the story for the *Pacific Daily News*. He remembers the incident well when Jim took off from Ladder Beach Cove. Jim had predicted it would take six hours to complete the trip, so after that time passed he was declared missing at sea and a search and rescue effort was made to find him. Jack got on a boat piloted by Captain Cabrera and headed into what he described as "the perfect Tinian channel storm." With waves as high as 12 to 15 feet, the boat would go to the top of a wave and then teeter over the edge to the other side. It was Captain Cabrera's expert boatmanship that kept the boat from capsizing, but it didn't keep two other men from passing out. The search was eventually called off because of the danger it posed for those in the boats.

DEL BENSON
James H. Bell after his historic swim across the Tinian channel.

Some concerned people on Tinian started a prayer vigil for Jim at a shrine on the north point. The memorial was dedicated to Tinian residents lost at sea. Several years earlier, some individuals had tried to haul freshly cut beef to Saipan in a boat. A trail of blood from the beef dripped into the water, which attracted a group of sharks. Rough waters capsized the boat, and when the beef hit the water there was a feeding frenzy among the sharks that left few survivors.

Even though the search was called off, Jack was still determined to find Jim. He took the search effort to the air in a Cessna 150 aircraft with Glen Seglum at the controls while Jack acted as a spotter. Luckily, Jim wasn't in the "washing machine" but had been pulled out toward Forbidden Island by the current, and then he swam an arc pattern where he was carried by the current until he eventually ended up close to Tinian.

Jim was finally spotted from the air, but Jack saw a huge whirlpool behind Jim that was pulling him back into the channel. The plane flew low enough to get Jim's attention, and then Jack hung out of the plane window and motioned the "cut" sign by moving his hand across his throat, and shouting for him to get out of the water quickly. Glen landed the plane on the north field, taxied through the boonies, and Jack jumped out of the plane to locate Jim on foot.

Jim had understood Jack's message and swam to some rocks where he climbed out of the water and was greeted with a helping hand from Jack, who still remembers the huge smile that was on Jim's face, even after 12 and one-half hours of constant swimming in one of the world's most dangerous waters.

See SUPERMAN on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A common search for that rising tide

By TINA SABLAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Tina Sablan is a Precinct 1 member of the House of Representatives in the 16th Legislature.

Dear people of the Commonwealth:

At the House session on April 24, 2008, Representatives Edward Salas, Victor Hocog, Heinz Hofschneider, and I introduced House Bill 16-86, "The Resident Foreign National Act of 2008," which proposes to establish a new five-year entry permit category within the Commonwealth immigration code.

If HB 16-86 is signed into law, qualified foreign nationals would be able to apply for an entry permit that would allow them the ability to be employed at will in the Commonwealth for the duration of their permits. This means that they would be responsible for negotiating the terms of their own employment contracts, including medical coverage, and for paying their own permit fees. They would also be able to operate businesses, and to accept, leave, and transfer jobs without having to obtain the approval of the Department of Labor. Foreign nationals who can show that they have maintained legal status in the Commonwealth for at least five consecutive years prior to the date of application; have a clean criminal record; have never been public charges of the Commonwealth; have sufficient potential for employment; and are not otherwise deportable, would be eligible to apply for resident foreign national entry permits.

In many ways public discourse about HB 16-86 has encapsulated the diversity of views, the social divisions, and the anxieties, struggles and hopes of our community at this pivotal time in our history. We strain now to pull ourselves out of a severe economic crisis, to improve local governance, to prepare ourselves for a new federalized immigration and labor system, and to understand and adapt to the social and economic changes that have already taken place in our community, and the changes that are still to come. For some of us, the instinctive reaction to this time of transition has been that of fear; we resist change at all costs, and seek to protect old habits and beliefs because they are familiar even if they are destructive, even if they hinder our ability to survive these difficult times. For others, the instinctive reaction has been that of steadfast courage and optimism, buoyed by the belief that we are going through a transformation that is both healthy and necessary, gradually moving away from the false and unsustainable economy that has disempowered citizens and guest workers alike, and moving toward a future of expanded economic and social opportunities for all.

With respect to HB 16-86, some, including local citizens, long-term guest workers, local and federal government officials, business owners, and workers' rights advocates, have expressed their support. They have said that it is about time the Commonwealth began to positively acknowledge the value and contributions of long-term guest workers. They have said that if such a program had been enacted long ago, it could have helped curb the labor abuses which have significantly tarnished the Commonwealth's reputation. Supporters of the bill have also said that if the resident foreign national program is enacted before the effective date of federalization (June 1, 2009, under U.S. Public Law 110-229), and if it is acceptable to the federal government, it could help ease the transition to the new federal immigration program.

Others, however, have expressed reservations with House Bill 16-86. There are those who worry that the new resident foreign national program might take away economic opportunities for citizens. There are those who dismiss the bill as being moot, believing that the federal government is unlikely to accommodate the resident foreign national program, even if it is enacted by law before June 1, 2009. There are also those who feel that the proposed program does not go far enough, and should be expanded to include all foreign nationals with U.S. citizen children or unpaid labor awards. Finally, there are those who have flatly opposed the bill in its entirety, and the rhetoric of some members of this group has been inflammatory, divisive, and sometimes bluntly racist.

I wrote this to clarify the purpose of HB 16-86, to address some of the common questions that surround the proposal, and to appeal to the people of the Commonwealth to read the bill for themselves, participate in the discussions taking place in the community, and search their own hearts and consciences before coming to a position on the proposed resident foreign national program.

The purpose of HB 16-86

The primary purpose of HB 16-86 is to stabilize and strengthen the Commonwealth's workforce during this time of economic vulnerability and transition. Law-abiding, competent, and reliable employees are critical to the survival and success of any business, and viable, resilient businesses are critical to the recovery of the local economy and the creation of jobs and wealth. Businesses need access to a labor pool that is large enough, adaptable enough, and qualified enough to meet their workforce requirements; workers, for their part, need jobs that pay decent wages, reward competence, and promote upward mobility. To these ends, HB 16-86 seeks to liberalize the Commonwealth's labor market and thereby expand the ability of businesses to compete for, and hire, the workers they need, and the ability of all workers, citizens as well as noncitizens, to negotiate for better salaries and enhanced benefits for themselves

See A COMMON on Page 13

Letters to the Editor

An urgent need to change

I read with special interest Ruth L. Tighe's article that appeared in the letter to the editor on Monday, June 9. The article talks about power options from the nuclear generating facilities. As an engineer, I read many technical papers as well as meet with other engineers including those in the nuclear power generating field.

Not only is it a feasible alternative but it makes sense and more so given the location such as ours. We are too small to influence any world-driven events, the price of oil will continue to be dictated by others beyond our control.

What does it take to have a cost-effective power generating facility in our location? Besides money, our will. Do we have it? I have serious reservations.

We however can make a difference by working on first electing the right leaders. We are at a very difficult point in our lives. We need to change. We need new leaders. Leaders that are for the CNMI and not mindful of not being re-elected.

Geothermal power is not the solution. It is far too expensive given our population. The recovery cost is too high.

Following up on my other earlier letter to the editor, we can do it. We can make a difference by voting responsibly. Let's elect new leaders. Let's elect based on qualifications and accomplishments and willingness to put aside personal gains for the benefit of the community.

Remember that picture of one person standing in front of a tank stopping the tank during the uprising in Tiananman Square in China? Look at it as the tank representing the self-interest leaders that we have so many of now in power. It was not another tank or an army that stopped that tank in Tiananman Square; rather it was one person.

Efrain Camacho
Navy Hill. Saipan

Philippine Independence Day message

The commemoration of the 110th Philippine Independence Day on June 12, 2008 is an occasion to reflect on the great triumph of the Filipino nation over the years of oppression.

On this day we remember with patriotic fervor the many struggles our forefathers gallantly fought and won, never intimidated in the face of the more powerful colonizers. We emerged victorious more than a hundred years ago because as a people who values freedom dearly we showed more heart and greater courage at a time our sovereignty was being challenged.

Today, there remains a battle we ought to win against—poverty. But poverty is not an invincible foe. If we show the same heart, the same courage that won for us our independence, we shall overcome these odds. Thus, reflecting on the nation's accomplishments in the past and recognizing our current struggle against forces that hinder us from moving forward, give us deeper reason to keep our nationalistic fervor burning.

As we celebrate our independence, I acknowledge our workers, including those working overseas, for always being actively involved in efforts to preserve and protect our hard earned freedom. Your highly-regarded skills, insatiable yearning for new knowledge, diligence, and strength of character have earned for us the respect of other races.

Let us capitalize on these commendable traits in partnering with our government in our collective endeavor to free our country from poverty and work toward a progressive Philippines. This is precisely the message behind this year's independence Day theme: "Republic Service, *Tungo sa Ganap na Kalayaan at Kaunlaran."*

On behalf of the Department of Labor and Employment, I wish all Filipino workers a meaningful Independence Day celebration. May our love for our Motherland translate into sustained social and economic progress for more generations to come.

Mabuhay ang Lahing Malaya! Mabuhay and Malayang Pilipinas!

Marianito Roque
Secretary
Department of Labor and Employment
Republic of the Philippines

SUPERMAN

From Page 10

The welcoming party that had assembled many hours earlier to greet Jim on Tinian had turned into a somber vigil to pray for his body to be found. He was taken to them and as he approached, they were dumbfounded that he had survived the ordeal. Jim said that one lady even brought her baby for him to kiss, and the child would be about 28-years old by now.

Twenty-seven years later on Monday, June 6, 2008 Jim Bell turned 70 and would once again enter the waters he had exited on his last heart-pounding adventure. As a youthful 43 year old, he had built up his stamina for the channel crossing by spending many Saturdays swimming for miles along the Guam shoreline.

To prepare for this adventure, Jim spent the last couple of years swimming one mile every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. He planned to arrive on Saipan early enough to start practicing in the ocean and build up his stamina over several days until he could easily swim 3 to 4 miles per day. He left the U.S. a couple of weeks early using free space available flights that the military offers to retired individuals. The only problem is that these flights are the lowest priority, and are only available if there is space. So, after spending a week-and-a-half sleeping in terminals and inexpensive military housing while waiting to catch flights, Jim finally flew into Saipan on Thursday night, less than four days before his 70th birthday.

Adjusting to jet lag and not having practiced in the ocean like he planned, he was still determined to accomplish his goal, so he left for Tinian on Sunday night to get some rest for the next morning. At 6:48 a.m., Jim entered the water with no escort and just his swimsuit, goggles, tee shirt, and a lot of suntan lotion. He said, "The normal current is east to west and it can be very strong. When you swim, you have to assume it's going to be that way. I swam straight north, and I took a position check and found out that I am going straight north, so there was no current. So I just headed for one of the beaches.

"I headed for the radio antenna, and I wasn't making progress. I realized that the current was flowing west to east. At this time I was really tired. The waves were beating on the rocks. I saw a small patch of beach near the golf course. I hit a rip current that kept me back, so I started swimming to the east and looking ahead."

After finding a safe exit point, Jim climbed out of the water at 10:38 a.m. at Coral Ocean Point, just 3 hours and 50 minutes after he started the five-mile swim. While walking along the golf trail he was met by a worker who took him to the clubhouse, where they recognized him because the Tribune newspaper had a front-page story about him that day.

This channel swim was less eventful than the first, but no less amazing. When asked why he wanted to do something like this, he responded: "I wanted to do something that hadn't been done before. I want to be an inspiration to others (I don't want to encourage people to take up channel swimming), but being 70 shouldn't keep you from doing what you want to do. You don't have to look at things as if they are written in stone."

With more adventures planned in the coming years, Jim is not letting age slow him down. So what's keeping you from accomplishing something you've always wanted to do? The next time you don't believe you can accomplish your goals, just remember the day that Superman Jim Bell returned to Saipan to brave the Tinian channel alone. Anything you want to do should be easy, safe, and fun by comparison.

God bless you Jim in your amazing life adventures, and thanks for bringing us a ray of hope that is so needed now.

The Weather

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼80°	▲88° ▼80°	▲88° ▼80°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°

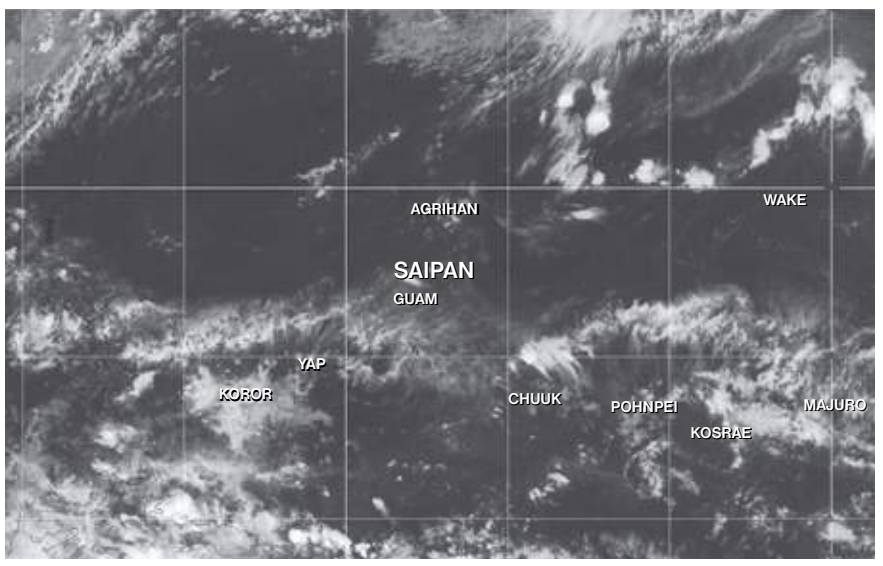
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼77
Palau	Thundershowers	▲87	▼78
Yap	Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼75
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲89	▼77
Majuro	Partly Sunny	▲85	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲62	▼50
Beijing	Showers	▲85	▼70
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼82
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼74
London	Cloudy	▲63	▼46
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲80	▼60
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲92	▼78
Melbourne	Thunderstorms	▲59	▼46
Miami	Cloudy	▲88	▼77
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼64
Osaka	Showers	▲80	▼60
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲65	▼45
Pusan	Sunny	▲79	▼62
Rome	Showers	▲70	▼60
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲74	▼49
San Francisco	Sunny	▲81	▼55
Seoul	Sunny	▲84	▼66
Tokyo	Rain	▲71	▼65
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼65

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough reaches northward from 3N131E to 9N130E. Trade-winds converging east of the trough axis are generating scattered showers over Koror between 4N and 9N from 130E to 137E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms north of Chuuk within 60 miles of a line from 10N151E to 10N155E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are also found in Pohnpei and Kosrae states and in the Republic of the Marshall Islands within 100 miles of a line from 8N161E to 3N175E to 3N180. A surface trough curves eastward from near Minami Tori Shima at 25N154E to 21N155E to 21N162E to a circulation centered at 25N167E. A nearly stationary front extends eastward from the circulation to beyond the date line at 23N. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring within 150 miles of the trough. Cloudiness and scattered showers are located along the front and northward to beyond 25N. A few thunderstorms are situated along the front to the west of 173E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
2:40AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
9:41AM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
3:37PM Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
8:51PM Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46AM	6:47 PM
Friday	5:46AM	6:48 PM
Saturday	5:47AM	6:48 PM
Sunday	5:47AM	6:48 PM
Monday	5:47AM	6:49 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	13:29PM	12:55AM
Friday	2:17PM	1:30AM
Saturday	3:06PM	2:06AM
Sunday	3:56PM	2:44AM
Monday	4:48PM	3:26AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily via Nagoya
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily
Saipan-Manila			
CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3
Saipan-Seoul			
OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7
Guam-Manila			
CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou			
CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6
Guam-Hongkong			
CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily via Nagoya
Osaka-Saipan			
NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily
Manila-Saipan			
CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3
Seoul-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7
Manila-Guam			
CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Guanzhou-Saipan			
CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5
Hongkong-Guam			
CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5
Rota-Guam			
CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

A COMMON

From Page 11

and their families.

Stabilizing the Commonwealth's workforce

The business community and various local government officials have consistently stated that the Commonwealth needs a minimum workforce of 18,000, and that there are simply not enough U.S. citizens and permanent residents who are eligible to work and qualified to meet all the workforce needs of the private sector.

According to the Department of Labor's Annual Report of 2007, of approximately 18,500 jobs in the private sector (excluding garment factory and domestic helper jobs), 10,900 are occupied by foreign national workers; the remaining 7,600 jobs are occupied by U.S. citizens and permanent residents. Even if a drastic 50% cut in government personnel were implemented today, and all 2,400 of those furloughed employees were to move into the private sector; even if all 2,200 of the currently-unemployed citizens and permanent residents were to land jobs in the private sector at the same time; and even if no citizens and residents were to leave the islands or retire this year -- the total number of U.S. citizens and permanent residents available to work would still be insufficient to meet all the workforce needs of the private sector. Moreover, not all of these citizens and permanent residents would be immediately qualified to fill those private sector jobs without some degree of training and education, particularly for highly-skilled jobs. The transition of government workers and currently-unemployed citizens and permanent residents to the private sector would take time, great effort, and a significant investment of resources in vocational training and other forms of assistance.

Meanwhile, the hemorrhaging of the local citizen population continues, and with it, the shrinking of the local citizen workforce. Although there are presently no concrete data available on the number of local citizens who have left the island to date, the anecdotal evidence is grim. On an almost daily basis it seems, one more talented professional decides to leave for better career opportunities somewhere else; one more local family packs its bags; one more young person decides to join the military because of limited opportunities in our islands; one more long-time resident comes to sadly realize that a secure and comfortable retirement here may not be possible after all; one more university or trade school graduate decides not to return to the Commonwealth to work. This mass exodus of citizens represents a tremendous loss of the human resources of our community – and chances are, it will continue until the economy is stabilized and can begin to recover.

As the quality of life in the Commonwealth declines and as the exodus of citizens carries on, survival for foreign national workers, and for businesses as well, also becomes increasingly difficult. These economically stressful times demand greater workforce flexibility, but current local labor laws make it difficult for businesses to efficiently hire the workers they need, and for foreign national workers to fill those jobs, even when there are not enough qualified citizens or permanent residents to do so.

For example, entry permits for foreign national workers come up for renewal and processing every year, no matter how long the workers have lived here, or how productively and reliably they have been employed, or how long and how much their employers have depended on them. Their permits can and often do take months to be issued. Moreover, all employment contracts require the approval of the Department of Labor, and foreign workers seeking employment transfers must first go through an administrative hearing and obtain the approval of the Secretary of Labor. If foreign workers lose their jobs, and if they are granted transfer authorizations, they have 30 days to find new jobs. If they are unable to do so in the time allowed, they must return to their countries of origin if appeals and motions to reconsider are denied. Commonwealth law currently does not offer any additional considerations for long-term workers who have been in the Commonwealth legally and continuously for years and who seek transfers – not even if they have spent the better part of their lives and professional careers here, not even if they no longer have ties to their countries of origin, not even if their entire families are here.

The stark realities of our present economic situation underscore the need for a strong and stable workforce. The proposed resident foreign national program would ease hiring restrictions required under current labor law which hinder economic recovery, prove unduly cumbersome for already-struggling businesses, impose tremendous hardship and stress on long-term foreign workers and their families, and do little to restrain the exodus of citizens from the Commonwealth. Furthermore, because resident foreign national status would be available to long-term foreign workers who have proven themselves to be law-abiding, productive, and reliable employees and who therefore require less oversight, the proposed program would benefit the Department of Labor as well, by allowing the Department to focus and prioritize its limited resources on more urgent administrative and enforcement responsibilities.

Would the proposed resident foreign national program hurt citizens?

Some members of the community have opposed HB 16-86 because they believe that the proposed resident foreign national program would negatively impact citizen-owned businesses and take away jobs from citizens. Though such protective instincts may be understandable in a shrinking economy such as ours, they can also be quite harmful to the goals of economic recovery and social stability. Granting qualified, law-abiding, and productive foreign national workers a greater measure of stability and freedom to negotiate the terms of their employment and to open their own businesses would promote the interests not only of long-term foreign nationals, and not only of businesses, but also the interests of citizens and the local government.

Rather than taking away jobs from citizens, or giving long-term foreign nationals any unfair advantages, the resident foreign national program would help expand the economy and reshape the job market by creating a larger, more mobile, and more stable workforce of citizens as well as noncitizens. Allowing resident foreign nationals to operate businesses would promote entrepreneurship and healthy competition, which in turn would help expand the tax base, generate revenue for public services, create jobs, and lower prices on consumer goods and services. Furthermore, the resident foreign national program would encourage employers to compete vigorously for productive and reliable workers by offering higher wages and attractive benefits. Businesses that pay artificially-depressed wages and treat their workers poorly would lose their competitive advantage over businesses that are willing and able to offer decent wages and exceptional working environments in order to recruit and retain high-quality workers.

The resident foreign national program would also help level the playing field for citizen employment. Citizens would be encouraged by improved wages and better working conditions to seek employment in the Commonwealth; would not be unjustly out-competed by low-wage labor; and would have greater incentives to seek the training, education, and experience they need to enhance their qualifications. Given a fair playing field, including wages that are commensurate with skills and experience, our local citizens are more than capable of competing brilliantly and on their own merits for jobs, and proving themselves to be diligent and capable workers.

Does HB 16-86 offer permanent residency and citizenship?

House Bill 16-86 does not propose to grant permanent residency or citizenship to long-term foreign nationals – the Commonwealth does not even have the authority to do so, and the Constitution of the Northern Marianas prohibits the Legislature from passing any laws that increase the class of nonaliens in the Commonwealth. Accordingly, the Findings of HB 16-86 declare that "resident foreign nationals shall not be considered non-aliens for any purpose, including but not limited to the application of Article II, section 5(d) of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands". Further, Section 3(b) and Section 4 of HB 16-86 explicitly state that resident foreign national status shall not be "a grant of permanent residency, resident status, citizenship, or nationality to a resident foreign national entry permit holder, nor shall it entitle resident foreign national entry permit holders to the privileges and immunities of citizenship." Section 4 of HB 16-86 also provides that resident foreign nationals may be deported as other aliens for violating conditions of entry.

Would the resident foreign national program result in a new population boom?

Some have expressed the fear that the proposed resident foreign national program would result in a huge population boom of ever-increasing numbers of resident foreign nationals and their immediate relatives, which would in turn impose additional and untenable burdens on the Commonwealth's already-strained infrastructure and resources. First, U.S. Public Law 110-229 imposed a cap on the

See A COMMON on Next Page

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A COMMON

From Page 13

number of alien workers in the Commonwealth, and while workers can be replaced if they are repatriated or deported, any population "boom" in excess of the cap would be a violation of federal law. Second, the resident foreign national program is being proposed for people who are already here, who have been here legally and continuously for at least five years, and who can meet other permit requirements established by law. The program would stabilize the presence of those workers, and discourage the importation of new replacement workers who are likely to be far less familiar with Commonwealth laws and far less vested in the community.

With respect to petitions to bring in immediate relatives (defined by law as legally recognized spouses and children), House Bill 16-86 proposes to apply to resident foreign nationals the same requirements that currently apply to foreign national workers. These requirements include proof that the resident foreign national earns an annual wage equal to or greater than 150% of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines for the State of Hawaii (approximately $25,000 per annum for a household of two); that the resident foreign national has obtained medical insurance coverage for each immediate family member; and that the resident foreign national has made educational arrangements for each minor child. Furthermore, House Bill 16-86 authorizes the Division of Immigration to set numerical caps on the number of resident foreign national permits that may be issued if necessary, a provision that was modeled on numerical caps on visas issued under federal immigration law.

Would resident foreign national status be available to people who have broken the law?

The intent of House Bill 16-86 is that resident foreign national status should be offered, not to criminals or scam artists, but to long-term, law-abiding and responsible foreign nationals for the purposes of stabilizing the Commonwealth's workforce. House Bill 16-86 would require, among other permit conditions, proof that applicants for resident foreign national status have maintained legal and continuous status in the Commonwealth, and that they have clean criminal records (no felony convictions, not more than one misdemeanor, no crimes of moral turpitude, and no convictions of crimes outside of the Commonwealth that carry a penalty of imprisonment of one year or more). Conditions of entry and the screening process could be strengthened in several ways; one possibility would be to require proof of actual and lawful employment in the Commonwealth, including, but not limited to, W-2s, pay stubs, tax returns, and other forms of evidence.

As previously stated, House Bill 16-86 provides that resident foreign nationals could still be deported as other aliens pursuant to Article 5 of the Commonwealth Entry and Deportation Act (Deportation and Departure). Grounds for deportation under Article 5 include: 1) knowingly and for gain encouraging, inducing, assisting, abetting, or aiding, in any way, any other alien to enter or attempt to enter the Commonwealth in violation of law; and 2) becoming, by reason of conduct, behavior, or activity at any time after entry an "excludable alien." Foreign nationals become excludable aliens if they are convicted of a crime carrying a penalty of one year or more in prison or a crime of moral turpitude, or if they seek to enter the Commonwealth or to aid the entry of another foreign national by fraud, deceit, bribery, or willful misrepresentation of a material fact or other unlawful act.

What if resident foreign nationals lose their jobs?

Some members of the community worry that HB 16-86, if signed into law, may result in resident foreign nationals becoming public burdens if they fall into unemployment, become unable to support themselves and their families, and would still be allowed to remain in the Commonwealth for at least the duration of their entry permits. House Bill 16-86 provides several safeguards to address this concern, including: 1) requiring, as conditions of entry, that the applicant demonstrate sufficient proof of employability as well as proof that he or she has never been a public charge of the Commonwealth; 2) easing restrictions on employment transfers so that resident foreign nationals have more time to secure new jobs and do not have to first go through an administrative hearing and obtain the approval of the Secretary of Labor; 3) granting employment preference to resident foreign nationals in the same manner as permanent residents; and 4) allowing resident foreign nationals to open up their own businesses, and thereby support themselves and their families. Further, HB 16-86 provides that, pursuant to Article 5 of the Commonwealth Entry and Deportation Act (Deportation and Departure), resident foreign nationals with no demonstrable means of support, who have become public charges, or who have been institutionalized in any type of facility at public expense, would be deportable as other aliens.

Is HB 16-86 moot as a result of federalization?

The passage of U.S. Public Law 110-229 does not render HB 16-86 moot. Federal regulations implementing the new immigration program are not expected to be promulgated until June 1, 2009, and possibly as late as December 1, 2009. At a minimum, the resident foreign national program proposed under HB 16-86 would help stabilize the Commonwealth's workforce in this period of uncertainty before the effective date of U.S. Public Law 110-229.

The resident foreign national program could also be offered as a starting point for discussion and negotiation with the federal agencies as the regulations are drafted. At a recent House presentation on federalization, a number of lawmakers, including the Speaker of the House and the Federal Relations chair, expressed their hope that the Commonwealth government would have a seat at the table with federal officials during the development of the new immigration regulations, to ensure that the economic needs of the Commonwealth are fully considered, including the need for a stable workforce. The Federal Ombudsman, Mr. Jim Benedetto, who is currently involved in the drafting of the new regulations, was present at this meeting. Mr. Benedetto affirmed his support for the involvement of local government officials in the process of developing the regulations, and also said that it might be possible to accommodate the resident foreign national program in the Commonwealth-only transitional guest worker program that is mandated under U.S. Public Law 110-229.

Learning from history: reexamining the guest worker program

In many ways, our discussions about HB 16-86 are not, and should not only be, about whether or not we should establish a new five-year entry permit category in the immigration code. We should also thoughtfully and honestly scrutinize the very nature of the Commonwealth's guest worker program, and how it has impacted the economic, social, and moral character of our community in the last twenty years. To these ends, it is useful and eye-opening to compare the Commonwealth's guest worker program to guest worker programs that have developed throughout history and throughout the world.

Wherever and whenever guest worker programs have been established, labor abuse, illegal immigration, economic inequality, social discord, depressed wages, and xenophobia have arisen -- from the gold mines of southern Africa in the 19th century, to the agricultural fields of the United States in the early 20th century, Guam and the Virgin Islands in the 1950s, Western Europe beginning in the 1960s, and our own Northern Mariana Islands from the 1980s to the present day. Indeed, economic and social injustice seem to be inherent in the guest worker system, and these problems only begin to diminish when the workers are given greater economic stability and freedom, and a pathway to permanent residency and citizenship.

The Commonwealth cannot offer permanent residency or citizenship to long-term guest workers; only U.S. Congress can do that. But we can offer greater stability and freedom. In so doing, we would, of our own accord, begin to close this dishonorable chapter in our history of labor abuse and exploitation, and open a new chapter of fair treatment and expanded economic opportunities for all workers in the Commonwealth.

The rising tide, and the need for healing

This is, to be sure, a time of great anxiety and uncertainty for the Commonwealth. But it is also a time of great opportunity – for social healing and stability, and for economic recovery. And we do have choices in the way we respond to the changing times. We can resist, and we can complain. We can continue with the schizophrenic view of wanting foreign national workers here but fearing that they might stay, of enjoying the fruits of their labor, but also resenting them for the same. We can give in to our misdirected frustrations and seek to have foreign workers and their families more tightly controlled or removed from the islands altogether. And we can raise our children to be fearful, intolerant, and woefully unprepared for the rapidly changing world into which they will come of age. We can do all these things, and our Commonwealth will continue to deteriorate.

I continue to believe that we can and should do better than that. These trying times can bring out the best in us, and our capacity for empathy, tolerance, compassion, and reason will determine our capacity to adapt successfully to the challenges before us. We can choose to acknowledge the uncomfortable truths about the Commonwealth's guest worker program, and embrace the urgent need to develop a freer, more stable and more flexible workforce. We can choose to lay the foundations for a new and more sustainable economy by teaching all our children the value of honest work and entrepreneurship, and raising them to take pride in competing and succeeding on their own merits in a level playing field. We can choose to recognize that the lives of citizens and foreign workers are intertwined in the Commonwealth, and have been for years – and as such, the ability of one group of people to survive and prosper cannot be separated from the ability of all to do the same.

Right now, there are local citizens and foreign workers who are afraid of losing their jobs or who cannot find jobs. Right now, there are local citizens and foreign workers living without electricity and running water. Right now, there are local citizens and foreign workers who are in desperate need of healthcare, who have been victims of crime, who are frustrated by bad governance, and whose children are learning in unsafe and dilapidated schools. Right now, there are local citizens and foreign workers who simply want better lives for themselves and their families, and who have had to say goodbye to loved ones who have left the islands. Whether we are citizens or foreign workers in the Commonwealth, we live, work, and suffer together, and if we hope to recover from our collective suffering we must begin to think and act as one undivided community, in the best interests of all the people who live here. Like the rising tide that floats all boats, we help ourselves and lift up our entire community when we help anyone among us to live and work more freely and comfortably.

Call for dialogue and participation in public hearings

The House Standing Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations has scheduled a series of public hearings on HB 16-86. The first one was held on Rota on June 7; the next public hearing will be on Saipan today, June 12, beginning at 6pm in the House Chamber, followed by a hearing on Tinian on Friday, June 13, from 8am to 2pm at the Tinian Junior/Senior High School. I appeal to all interested members of the community to take the time to review House Bill 16-86, participate in the upcoming public hearings and any other public meetings, and submit comments. Copies of the bill may be downloaded at the Commonwealth Legislature's website, www.cnmileg.gov.mp , at the Floor Leader's website, www.camachocnmi.com, or requested from the Office of Representative Rosemond Santos, JGO Committee Chair, at 664-8965.

I would also be more than happy to provide copies for anyone who requests them, or to meet with anyone who wishes to discuss this bill. I can be reached at 664-8931 or 483-3935, or by email at tinasablan@gmail.com or rep.sablanc@cnmileg.gov.mp.

Letters to the Editor

A call to change CUC forever

I'm done talking about change and talking about a revolution of minds. This Tuesday, June 17, 2008, starting at 6pm,you are invited to join us at the multi-purpose building to listen to ideas on changing CUC forever. It is time we either put up or shut up.

Things to bring:

■ Flashlight or battery-operated lantern in case of power outage. *Would you really be surprised if they turned off the power?*

■ Letter or written testimony about any personal problem you have encountered with CUC or suggestions on how to make things better. We wish to collect these letters and review them as we will not be able to hear testimony from every single person attending. You can write them anonymously if you wish.

■ An open mind. We are not gathering to scream, shout, or stir up a lynch mob. If this is what you are looking for, please look elsewhere. Let's let cooler heads prevail and use our minds, not our tempers or our fists. Peaceful demonstrations are meant to be peaceful and to bring change, not to incite riots and violence.

What I have learned in life is that once you take a side on any controversial issue, you will be insulted, ridiculed, threatened, and can even be attacked verbally or physically. I will not give in to political pressure and I will not cater to anyone who has agendas spurred by hatred or anger. We must be inspired by the possibility of change, which is attainable if we work together for the betterment of our islands.

For the record, this administration cannot be blamed entirely for CUC's failures. It is the end result of decades of decadence, from CUC's mismanagement, to its bad decision-making, to its possible corruption. While I will not blame this administration for CUC's failures, I do expect them to adhere to the DEMANDS of the good people of the Commonwealth. To all of our leaders, if this is the very best you can do, *pot fabot*, do not bother to run again, because it is not good enough. You promised change when you were elected. Now let's see you prove yourself. *Preba hao!*

As I have said before, we must put aside all of our differences to solve the greatest problem affecting each and every one of us today. At no time will we discuss federalization, party affiliations, or assess who exactly is to blame for the problems of CUC. We all are accountable, because as citizens we have sat by passively for far too long and allowed it to erode to what we see today: failed engines and failed management.

I am asking every concerned citizen to stand up and be counted and let all of our leaders know that we will no longer tolerate paying the highest utility rates in the modern world without any light at the end of the tunnel.

No more lies. No more excuses. No more...

Tuesday, June 17, 2008, 6pm, multi-purpose building. Be there if you want to be an advocate for change.

Power to our good people of the Commonwealth...

Ed Propst
Concerned citizen of the CNMI

NMC instructor's articles featured in reg'l mag

Culture-related articles authored by Northern Marianas College instructor Constantine "Dean" Papadopoulus, Ph.D., were recently published in the *Pacific Educator Magazine*, a publication distributed in Hawaii, American Samoa and throughout Micronesia.

The most recent article, "The Benefits of Culture," was featured in the magazine's recent Spring 2008 issue. As its title expresses, the article highlights the many benefits of culture and also provides an example-filled explanation of people's attachment to their culture in spite of the unintentional obligation and frustrations that it causes.

Among the benefits of culture, according to Dr. Papadopoulus, are its roles in organizing life with traditional, habitual customs that bind one to a group, providing people with face-to-face human interaction needed for development and survival, and endowing individuals with a sense of belonging to a larger collective.

In "The Major Components of Culture," which figured in *Pacific Educator*'s Spring 2007 issue, Papadopoulus discusses how understanding the role of language, customs, and land—the key pillars of culture—can help educators become more effective when communicating with their students.

"Dr. Papadopoulus's articles provide a refreshing perspective about how culture plays a fundamental role in the classroom," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "We are proud that his work is shared regionally so that others may benefit from his academic commentaries."

Papadopoulus is an instructor at the college's Language and Humanities Department.

The *Pacific Educator Magazine* is published by the Pacific Resources for Education and Learning, which serves children and educators in the CNMI, American Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Hawaii, the Marshall Islands, and Palau.

Archived copies of the articles can be found at PREL's website, www.prel.org. ***(NMC)***

Water reports due by July 1

All public water systems must distribute the Consumer Confidence Report for year 2007 to customers by July 1, 2008.

"In addition to distributing to customers, a copy must also be delivered to Division of Environmental Quality along with a completed certification letter stating that you have distributed the CCR to your customers and that the information is correct and consistent with the compliance monitoring data previously submitted to DEQ," a DEQ statement said.

Assistance in preparing the CCR is available from the EPA document—Preparing your Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report: Revised Guidance for water supplier—available online at http://www.epa.gov/safewater.

The DEQ Safe Drinking Water Staff are also available to review a draft of the CCR. Arrange an appointment with CCR coordinator Julie De la Rosa at 664-8500 prior to June 13 if you want help with preparing your CCR. ***(DEQ)***

Free workshops for local farmers, ranchers

In collaboration with the Western Sustainable Agricultural Research and Education Grant Opportunity, the Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Service will be hosting two workshops aimed at helping farmers and ranchers in the areas of hog production and pest management.

The workshop on Effective Swine Husbandry Management Practices in the Marianas will educate participants about taking care of piglets, sows, and boars in different production stages that will maximize profits to producers. The Integrated Pest Management Workshop, which will be incorporated with the workshop on hog production, will enable participants to learn about mitigation methods in relation to pest in crops.

The schedule for the workshops are:

- **Rota** June 16, 8am-4pm, Room B-2 at NMC-Rota Campus
- **Saipan** June 17, 8am-4pm, NMC-CREES Office at NMC-Saipan Campus
- **Tinian** June 20, 8am-4pm, Room D at NMC-Tinian Campus

For more information on the workshops, call Dr. Allan Sabaldica at 287-0556, Alejandro Bajilles at 287-0554, or Ross Manglona at 287-0552. ***(NMC)***

VISITING FEDS JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Doug Domenech, deputy chief of staff for Interior Secretary Kempthorne and acting deputy assistant secretary for insular affairs, looks at Nikolao Pula, director of the Office of Insular Affairs, who is answering a question from the media during Tuesday's press conference at the Governor's Office on Capital Hill.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor - Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan , MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW08-IFB-022

ANYUTA ISLAND REVETMENT REPAIR, ROTA

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Anyuta Island Revetment Repair located in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (ROTA).

The project package will be available on or after June 12, 2008 at DPW Technical Services Division, 2d Floor-Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (US$100.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on July 1, 2008, 1:00 p.m. local time at the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Rota. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on July 9, 2008 to Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr., Director of Technical Services Division, DPW 2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 235-6346.

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW08-IFB-022". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 p.m. local time July 14, 2008. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 2:00 p.m. local time July 14, 2008, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than July 14, 2008, and be received no later than July 23, 2O08. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 2:00 p.m. local time, July 28, 2008, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 2:00 p.m. local time, on July 17, 2008.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660".

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in confomiance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is one hundred fifty (150) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at three hundred dollars (US$300.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN M. APATANG
Resident Director

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

VIRGINIA C. VILLAGOMEZ
Governor's Authorized Representative (GM)

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
IFB 08-031

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the **Renovation of the Koblerville Elementary School Bilingual Classroom**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office, for a non-refundable fee of $3.25, located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-031" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than June 20, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Responsibility determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 08-031, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination", containing one (1) original and one (1) copy). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl de la Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: **delacruzc@pss.cnmi.mp**.

Contractors are required to submit with their bid, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Carl F. de la Cruz
Acting P&S Officer

Business

Trade deficit bounds to highest level in 13 mos.

WASHINGTON (AP)—The trade deficit soared to the highest level in more than a year as an improvement in exports was swamped by record-high levels of imported crude oil. The deficit with China also rose sharply.

The gap between what the nation imports and what it sells abroad rose by 7.8 percent in April to $60.9 billion, the Commerce Department reported Tuesday. It was the largest imbalance since March 2007.

The higher deficit was driven by a $4.3 billion increase in crude oil imports, which jumped to a record $29.3 billion in April, as the average per-barrel price rose to an all-time high of $96.81.

If the price of crude had instead been at $60 per barrel, about where it was a year ago, the trade deficit would have been $11 billion lower in April. Analysts cautioned the deficit will widen further in coming months, given that oil is now trading above $130 per barrel.

U.S. export sales totaled $155.5 billion in April, up 3.3 percent to an all-time high, reflecting big gains in sales of commercial aircraft, farm machinery, medical equipment and computers. But this increase was swamped by a 4.5 percent rise in imports, which also set a record at $216.4 billion. In addition to oil, there were huge gains in imports of autos and consumer goods.

On Wall Street, stocks finished a lackluster day as a drop in oil prices failed to keep investors from worrying about the adverse effects of high energy costs. The Dow Jones industrial average edged up 9.44 points to close at 12,289.76.

Oil falls on strong dollar, lower demand forecasts

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil prices fell Tuesday, giving up an earlier advance as the dollar held its gains against the euro and the Energy Department slashed its oil consumption projections. Retail gasoline prices rose to a new record over $4.04 a gallon.

The dollar rose on recent supportive comments by U.S. officials, prompting selling by investors who had bought commodities such as oil as a hedge against inflation. Also, a stronger dollar makes oil more expensive to investors overseas.

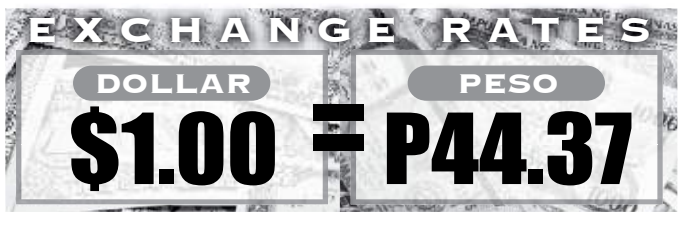
The Energy Department, in a monthly report, indicated that high prices are cutting oil consumption more than expected in the industrialized world. Consumption is now expected to fall by 240,000 barrels a day in 2008; last month, the department forecast consumption would be unchanged from 2007 levels.

That report calmed a market that earlier sent oil up more than $3 on a projection by the International Energy Agency that said global demand will continue to rise, especially in China.

Light, sweet crude for July delivery fell $3.04 to settle at $131.31 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

A weekly report from MasterCard offered additional evidence that high prices are cutting gas consumption: MasterCard's SpendingPulse survey found that demand for gasoline fell 3.8 percent last week compared to the same week last year, and is off 5.2 percent, on average, over the last four weeks compared to the same period of 2007.

Reports that Saudi Arabia has increased oil output by 500,000 barrels a day this quarter, 200,000 barrels a day more than previously thought, added some pressure to the market. Still, analysts said the Saudi move was only a peripheral factor in Tuesday's price drop.



GTA offers roaming in Singapore

TAMUNING, Guam—GTA TeleGuam announces the availability of voice and data roaming service to Singapore. GTA MPULSE Wireless customers can now make calls and also send and receive data, browse the Internet, and use Instant Messaging on their BlackBerry smartphones while visiting Singapore.

"We are pleased to announce the further expansion of our islandwide, worldwide coverage by having voice and data roaming service availability in Singapore," said Andrew Gayle, executive vice president of Wireless at GTA TeleGuam. "Many of our customers travel to Singapore for business and now they are able to use their BlackBerry smartphones for making calls and accessing their data."

With GTA MPULSE Wireless voice and data roaming service, GTA customers using BlackBerry devices are able to increase productivity and performance by being mobile and staying connected.

For more information about GTA TeleGuam's products and services, call GTA's "Always There" Call Center Hotline at 644-4GTA (4482) for more information. ***(GTA)***

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Wall Street ends mostly lower on economic worries

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street closed mostly lower Tuesday after a dip in oil prices failed to keep investors from fretting over the economic consequences of steep energy costs. Crude oil's retreat below $132 a barrel did encourage some investors to search for bargains in stocks created by recent plunges. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 9.44, or 0.08 percent, to 12,289.76, after moving in and out of positive territory throughout the day. Broader stock indicators declined. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 3.32, or 0.24 percent, to 1,358.44, and the Nasdaq composite index fell 10.52, or 0.43 percent, to 2,448.94. Crude dropped $3.04 to settle at $131.31 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Kerkorian's Ford tender offer draws huge response

WASHINGTON (AP)—Ford investors flocked to Kirk Kerkorian's offer to buy 20 million additional shares of the company, a move that will help the billionaire investor increase his stake in the automaker to about 5.5 percent. Kerkorian's Tracinda Corp. said Tuesday that its tender offer of $8.50 a share drew overtures of more than 1 billion of the company's shares, or nearly half of Ford's outstanding stock. Tracinda will buy 20 million shares for about $170 million. When Tracinda launched the cash tender offer on May 9 for the additional shares, it offered a slight premium to the stock's May 8 closing price of $8.20.

Paulson pledges robust engagement with China

WASHINGTON (AP)—Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson says the administration intends to keep pursuing a policy of "robust engagement" with China that will include filing unfair trade cases as needed and pressuring the Chinese to move more quickly to revalue their currency. Paulson, delivering a speech outlining the goals of a high-level meeting the two countries will hold next week, said that it was important for both nations to resist calls for erecting protectionist barriers. The Chinese have complained that the administration has harmed the chances for making progress in the high-level talks by resorting to filing trade cases against China before the World Trade Organization.

Nation

Obama veep vetters look at ex-Pentagon leaders

WASHINGTON (AP)—Barack Obama is considering former top Pentagon leaders among his possible running mates, which would address his lack of foreign policy experience and balance the military bonafides of a GOP ticket led by a war hero.

Two senators who consulted Tuesday with the Democratic presidential candidate's vice presidential vetting team said retired military generals were among the names they discussed.

"We talked about many names," North Dakota Sen. Kent Conrad told The Associated Press, including "some that are out of the box, but I think would be very well-received by the American people, including former top military leaders."

Conrad would not disclose which names they discussed, and the Obama campaign has been keeping the process a closely guarded secret.

GOP candidate John McCain was a naval aviator during the Vietnam War and spent more than five years as a prisoner of the North Vietnamese after being shot down. Obama has not served in the military.

Obama has a three-person team managing the vetting process that includes former first daughter Caroline Kennedy, former Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder and Jim Johnson, the former CEO of mortgage lender Fannie Mae.

Tomatoes pulled off shelves amid wide salmonella scare

CHICAGO (AP)—Federal officials hunted for the source of a 17-state salmonella outbreak linked to three types of raw tomatoes, while the list of supermarkets and restaurants yanking those varieties from shelves and menus grew.

McDonald's, Wal-Mart, Burger King, Kroger, Outback Steakhouse, Winn-Dixie and Taco Bell were among the companies that voluntarily withdrew red plum, red Roma or round red tomatoes unless they were grown in certain states and countries.

In addition, officials at the Los Angeles Unified School District—the nation's second largest—said Monday they have "indefinitely suspended" serving uncooked tomatoes.

The FDA is investigating the source of the outbreak, agency spokeswoman Kimberly Rawlings said. "We are working hard and fast on this one and hope to have something as quickly as possible," Rawlings said Monday.

AP

Tomatoes with vines still attached are on sale at the Hunger Mountain Cooperative in Montpelier, Vt., Tuesday, June 10, 2008.

Girls found dead near Oklahoma town

TULSA, Okla. (AP)—The bodies of two girls were found shot to death in their rural community, along a dirt road the best friends used dozens of times to play and walk to sleepovers. By Tuesday investigators had found no suspects and were unsure of the motive for Sunday's killings of 13-year-old Taylor Paschal-Placker and 11-year-old Skyla Whitaker.

Taylor's grandfather found their bodies after his wife got no answer when she called Taylor's cellular phone. The girls were sleeping over at Taylor's house and had decided to take a walk down the desolate road Sunday afternoon.

Peter Placker sobbed uncontrollably Monday as he tried to remember finding the girls' bodies about a quarter of a mile from his house near Weleetka, about 70 miles south of Tulsa.

ACROSS THE NATION

1 climber dies on Mount Rainier, 2 wait for rescue

LONGMIRE, Wash. (AP)—A climber has died on Mount Rainier and the national park says two others are awaiting rescue at Camp Muir. Ranger Sandi Kinzer the three went on a day hike Monday when they were caught in a blizzard on the Muir snowfield. Kinzer says one of the survivors has frostbite and can't walk out from a shelter. She says a helicopter is waiting for a snow storm to clear to land at Camp Muir, which is at about 10,000 feet elevation.

Girl recovering after shooting with grandma's gun

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—A relative of a 4-year-old South Carolina girl who shot herself in a Sam's Club store after grabbing her grandmother's handgun said Tuesday the family expects the child to be out of the hospital by the end of the week. Inease Williamson, the child's great-grandmother, said the little girl was recovering Tuesday after undergoing emergency surgery a day earlier. "My great-granddaughter is doing much better," she said. She declined to released the child's name and police also have refused. The child was riding in a shopping cart and playing with a cell phone, then grabbed the gun from her grandmother's purse and shot herself in the chest, Inease Williamson said.

Major ISPs agree to block child porn newsgroups

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—Online forums where thousands of child-porn images have been posted have been stricken from three Internet providers, including two of the nation's five largest, New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo announced Tuesday. Verizon, Time Warner Cable and Sprint agreed with Cuomo to block access to child pornography disseminated through newsgroups and user groups, a hard-to-regulate sector of the Internet designed to bring together users with like interests. Cuomo said the service providers blocked child pornography found in 88 newsgroups by his investigators. The companies also agreed to eliminate the material from their servers and will pay $1.125 million to help fund efforts to remove child porn from the Internet.

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

Philippines oil field to start production next week

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines' Galoc offshore oil field will start commercial production next week, initially pumping about 20,000 barrels daily, an official said Tuesday. The news of the first oil field development in the Philippines in 16 years came as a relief to the oil importing country amid the rapid increases in petroleum prices. A consortium of mostly Philippine companies will pump the oil. Galoc, about 220 miles (350 kilometers) southwest of Manila, has an estimated reserve of 10 million to 20 million barrels of "high-quality oil" that is light, non-waxy, and has medium sulfur content, Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes told reporters Tuesday.

China declares quake lake crisis over

CHENGDU, China (AP)—Water churned through a drainage channel and engulfed empty towns Tuesday after Chinese soldiers blasted away the debris that kept an earthquake-formed lake threatening more than a million people downstream. Sichuan province's Communist Party chief, Liu Qibao, declared "decisive victory" after more than half the 66 billion gallons of water drained off by early evening, easing pressure on a dam formed when the quake triggered a landslide of mud, rocks and other debris, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. More than 250,000 people had already moved to high ground due to concerns that the barrier holding back Tangjiashan lake could break. About 1.3 million people live downstream.

Scientists blame drilling for Indonesia mud flow

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—International scientists said Tuesday they are almost certain a mud volcano that has displaced tens of thousands of villagers in central Indonesia was caused by faulty drilling of a gas exploration well—not an earthquake as claimed by the company. Debate over the eruption has flared since a seemingly endless torrent of hot, black sludge started oozing from a gaping hole near the country's second-largest city of Surabaya on May 29, 2006. "We are more certain than ever that the Lusi mud volcano is an unnatural disaster and was triggered by drilling the Banjar-Panji-1 well," Richard Davies, a geologist at Durham University in Britain, said Tuesday.

US beef dispute grows into crisis in South Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—About 80,000 protesters gathered in the South Korean capital Tuesday in the largest demonstration yet against the planned resumption of U.S. beef imports, as the entire Cabinet offered to resign in the uproar over the policy.

President Lee Myung-bak's office did not say whether he would accept the resignations, an attempt to defuse the beef crisis that has paralyzed his government less than four months after the former Hyundai CEO took office following a landslide election victory.

The government agreed in April to lift almost all restrictions that had been imposed on imports of U.S. beef over fears of mad cow disease. Protesters have been demanding for weeks that the government scrap or renegotiate the beef deal amid perceptions it did not do enough to protect citizens.

The demonstrations began after a popular current affairs TV program questioned the safety of U.S. beef and claimed Koreans are more susceptible than Americans and Europeans to the human variant due to genetics.

Michael Breen, a longtime British observer of the local scene and author of the book "The Koreans," blamed the current situation on disinformation spread on the Internet.

"Nothing the government says will be trusted because it is dealing with hysteria," he said.

In the largest protest so far, 80,000 demonstrators waving candles gathered Tuesday evening in central Seoul, according to police, who blocked roads with shipping containers to prevent the crowd from marching to the nearby presidential Blue House.

Some 21,000 riot police were deployed to keep order, the Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency said.

"President Lee hasn't listened to the voices of his people. We still don't have a genuine democracy in our country," said Jang Dae-hyun, a spokesman for a civic group that has organized protests.

Japanese suspect had cache of weapons

TOKYO (AP)—Investigators searching the apartment of the suspect in a bloody Tokyo rampage found evidence Tuesday he bought a small cache of knives and other weapons just before the assault, police said.

Tomohiro Kato, a 25-year-old factory worker, was handed over to the Tokyo prosecutors' office Tuesday as more Internet postings surfaced depicting him as increasingly despondent before the attack and intent on killing people.

In one posting, he reportedly called himself "worse than trash."

"Oh, I am hopeless," he wrote two days before the attack, according to reports in The Asahi, a Tokyo newspaper. "What I want to do: commit murder. My dream: to monopolize the tabloid TV shows."

Police say Kato allegedly slammed a rented truck into pedestrians in a crowded shopping district Sunday then jumped out and began a stabbing spree.

Three people were killed by the impact of the truck, four died from stab wounds and another 10 were injured, police said. Kato, blood spattered on his face and clothes, was arrested on the spot.

Kato reportedly posted Internet messages on "Extreme Exchange." Experts say it is one of a growing number of Web sites used for dubious contacts such as seeking out accomplices in criminal activities, or for group suicides or to buy and sell illegal drugs.

India tourists stranded after group calls strike

CALCUTTA, India (AP)—Tens of thousands of tourists were stranded in the tea-growing region of eastern India on Tuesday after a Gurkha separatist group called a strike to press its demand for an independent state, shutting down hotels, shops and roads.

The Gurkha Janamukti Morcha wants a state for ethnic Gurkhas in the hill areas around Darjeeling in West Bengal state.

All shops and businesses were closed Tuesday in Darjeeling and nearby towns, an area famous for its tea and cool climate, a strong draw in India's scorching summer. Roughly 40,000 tourists were rushing to leave the area after the Gurkha group asked them to go home as soon as possible, said Raj Kanojia, a senior state police official.

The newly formed separatist group's general secretary, Roshan Giri, said it would help with travel arrangements, but prospects appeared difficult with all public transport staying off the roads.

World

Sudanese jetliner bursts into flames, kills dozens

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP)—A Sudanese jetliner landed in a thunderstorm and veered off the runway late Tuesday, bursting into flames and killing dozens of people, Sudanese officials said.

Official and state media said immediately after the crash that about half the 203 passengers aboard the Airbus A310 had been killed in the crash around 9 p.m. But several hours later officials began reporting a lower toll.

AP

This video frame grab image taken from Sudan TV via AP Television News shows a plane that burst into flames after apparently veering off a runway at an airport in Khartoum, Sudan, Tuesday June 10, 2008.

One flight attendant said the crew had evacuated the passengers from the plane.

"Thank God we were able to get all the passengers out," said Sarrah Faisal, her voice shaking as she spoke to Sudanese TV from a stretcher, wearing a plastic neck-brace. She gave no more details.

Deputy parliament speaker Mohammed al-Hassan al-Ameen said the death toll was "about 30 people." Police spokesman Mohammed Abdel Majid al-Tayeb said five bodies had been pulled from the wreckage, 100 people were safe and an unspecified number were hospitalized.

An Associated Press reporter at the scene said the plane appeared to have left the runway as it landed at Khartoum International Airport.

Israel strike kills 3 Gaza militants

JERUSALEM (AP)—An Israeli airstrike killed three Palestinians firing mortars at southern Israel on Tuesday, while Israel's leaders debated whether to pursue a truce with Gaza's Hamas rulers or launch a broad military offensive against militants in the coastal strip.

In a related development, the father of an Israeli soldier held captive in Gaza by Hamas said his son pleaded for his life and appealed to the government not to abandon him in a newly received letter.

The Israeli attack came after militants bombarded southern Israel with 20 mortar rounds in the space of an hour, and Hamas said the strike killed three members of one of its mortar squads.

At the time, Israel's top three officials—Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Defense Minister Ehud Barak and Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni—were discussing what to do about Gaza.

With four Israeli civilians killed by rocket and mortar attacks this year, Israel's leadership is under growing pressure to do something about the near daily assaults. Barak and other officials have repeatedly said an Israel offensive is only a matter of time.

Officials refused to comment on Tuesday's meeting of the three leaders. But Barak later told the Israeli Cabinet that he believes "we should talk less" about plans for Gaza, according to a participant.

"When the time comes, we'll act," Barak was quoted as saying by the participant, who agreed to discuss the session only if not quoted by name because the talks were private.

Gaza militants have been bombarding southern Israel with rocket and mortar attacks for seven years, but increased their rate of fire after Israel pulled its troops and settlers out of the territory in 2005. The attacks ratcheted up after Hamas militants overran Gaza a year ago.

Israel's military has limited its reprisals to focused attacks, fearing a broad military campaign would result in heavy casualties on both sides.

AP

Manuel "Meme" Uribe, 42, smiles with his girlfriend Claudia Solis, during an interview with the Associated Press, in Monterrey, Mexico, Monday, June 9, 2008.

700-pound Mexican man is hoping to stand for wedding

MONTERREY, Mexico (AP)—Manuel Uribe, who once weighed a half ton but has slimmed down to about 700 pounds, celebrates his 43rd birthday on Wednesday with a simple wish for the coming year: to be able to stand on his own two feet to get married.

Interviewed at his home in northern Mexico, where he can still do little more than sit up on a bed, Uribe said more than two years of steady dieting have helped him drop about 550 pounds from his Guinness record weight of 1,235 pounds.

He hopes Guinness representatives will confirm in July that he holds a second title: The world's greatest loser of weight.

But Uribe is still unable to walk his fiancee, Claudia Solis, down the aisle.

"It frustrates me a little, because it is not easy to get out," said Uribe, who has not been able to leave bed for the last six years.

His most recent attempt to escape the house—to attend Solis' 38th birthday party in March—fell through when a flatbed tow truck brought to transport his reinforced bed got caught beneath an underpass.

Environment

10 are selected for Coral Reef summer internship

Ten students were selected for the coral reef internship program this summer. For the next 12 weeks, interns will work on coral reef management projects at Coastal Resources Management, Division of Environmental Quality and Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Interns assigned at CRM:

- Francisco Palacios – Education/Outreach, Mentor: Brooke Nevitt
- Andrew Moses - Coral Monitoring, Mentor: John Starmer
- Leovita Cabrera – GIS, Mentor: Julie Duenas

Intern assigned at DFW:

- Teresa Miller - Marine Conservation, Mentor: Marianne Teregeyo
- Phillip Johnson - Fisheries, Mentor: Steve McKagan

Interns assigned at DEQ:

- Jose Quan - Coral Monitoring, Mentor: Dr. Peter Houk
- Matthew Blanco - Education/outreach, Mentor: Reina Camacho
- Georgia Cabrera - Watershed Management, Mentor: Kathleen Herrman

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left to right, Steve McKagan, Marianne Teregeyo, Teresa Miller (intern) and Sylvan Igisomar, DFW Director. Not in photo: Phillip Johnson, intern.

- Daniel Villegas – Education/Outreach, Mentor: Fran Castro
- Solomon Castro – GIS, Mentor: Yubert Alepuyo

At the end of their internship, they will conduct presentations on their coral reef projects. The goal of the internship is to provide postsecondary students with hands-on experience working in the natural resources agencies: DEQ, Division of Fish and Wildlife and the Coastal Resources Management Office.

The internship program occurs yearly and is open to high school graduates and college students. For more information, contact public information officer, Reina Camacho at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

From left to right, John Starmer, Julie Duenas, Dr. John Joyner, CRM Director, Leovita Cabrera (intern), Andrew Moses (intern), Francisco Palacios (intern), and Brooke Nevitt.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left to right, Peter Houk, Georgia Ann Cabrera (intern), Frank Rabauliman, DEQ Director, Solomon Castro (intern), Yubert Alepuyo, Matthew Blanco (intern), Kathleen Herrmann, Reina Camacho, Daniel Villegas (intern), Olivia Tebuteb, and Fran Castro. Not in photo: Jose Quan (intern).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Life & Style

A visit to the glittering city of Pusan

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

PUSAN, South Korea—I met up with Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela, the 10 students, and chaperones Marian Dlg. Tudela and Joe C. Tenorio from the Saipan Mayor's Office at the Saipan International Airport at 1:30am for the 16th Annual CNMI Students Cultural Exchange Program. Apparently, the group was already waiting for me before boarding.

In the plane, I had an entire row to myself, which made my four-and-a-half-hour plane ride to our destination as comfortable as one could possibly get in a long plane ride. Everything was exactly the way I liked it, except for the food. No comment on the plane food.

It was at 7:30am when we finally arrived at the newly built Kimhae International Airport in Pusan, Korea. There we met up with Junior Chamber International members Nicky Kim and Jae Kim and Saipan delegation president Yong Chul Jang. The trip was under the sponsorship of the Junior Chamber International Pacific Saipan Inc.

Before hitting the road on what will be one of our long bus rides during our trip there, the JCI members treated the group to a bit of breakfast at Popeye's, which was located right inside the airport. How nifty, I thought.

An hour later, our bus driver, whom all of us called "Mr. Park", helped us pack our luggage and bags at the bottom of the bus. Mr. Park was great with the students but none of them could understand any of his jokes as all he spoke was Korean. Interestingly, even the JCI members could not understand what he was saying.

Jae Kim said it was difficult to understand him because, although Mr. Park spoke Korean, his accent was countryside.

It was at least an hour and a half until we reached our very first destination, the Yandusan Park in Nampodong, to visit the 120-meter high Busan Tower. The group filled two elevators going up to the tower but once there, we were flabbergasted at the amazing view.

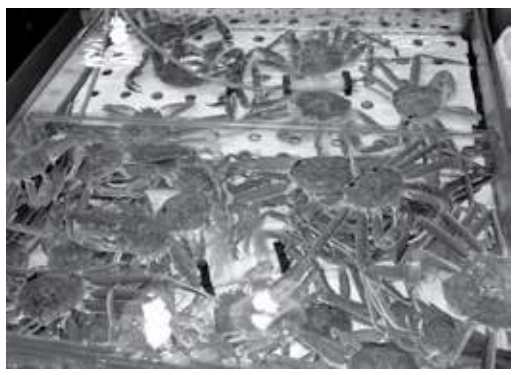
The Busan Tower gives a bird's eye view of most of Pusan's metropolitan area and beyond. Up there, one can easily spot the bustling activity of the Pusan Harbor, which is said to be Korea's second busiest port.

RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
The Busan Tower gives a bird's eye view of most of Pusan's metropolitan area, including the bustling activity of the Pusan Harbor, which is said to be Korea's second busiest port.

One can also spot Oyugdo, a famous Pusan landmark, which looks like five or six little islands depending on the tide.

We spent a good 30 minutes in the tower when the group started dissipating to go back down.

I met up with the rest of the group downstairs next to the traditional style Korean Bell. There, the students were having fun feeding the local pigeons with chips from a nearby snack vendor.



RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
Some of the fresh crabs on display at the Busan Cooperative Fish Market, the largest fish market in Korea.

After taking our group pictures at the site, we headed back to the bus to do more sightseeing. About an hour and a half in our bus ride, we passed by the Busan Cooperative Fish Market, the largest fish market in Korea.

The group wanted to stop by and ogle the different types of fish they were selling there. Although not on our itinerary, the JCI members were kind enough to go ahead and make our next stop there.

The Busan Fish Market sells a vast number of different kinds of sea life—hundreds of varieties of fishes, shellfish, crustaceans, seaweeds, etc.—and they were so fresh that all were still alive.

The market takes up 64,257 meters, of which about 10 percent is a refrigerated working area. More than 30 percent of the country's fish production passes through the market.

After our one-hour tour of the fish market, it was about lunch time and the group was starting to get a little bit hungry. We ate lunch at a nearby restaurant and had fresh Korean sashimi.

Lunch was incredible. Mr. Jang said the fish that was prepared for us was one of the live fishes sold at the fish market and that the restaurant chef had gutted it and prepared it especially for us. How lovely.

Our next stop in the agenda was Daegu University, which was at least a two-hour drive.

The 1,000-acre campus and 500-acre Muncheonji Lake, which comprised the entire Daegu University, is home to thousands of students on campus.

The group toured the huge campus but what was especially memorable was the tour inside the Daegu School for the Blind. There, books were published in Braille for the blind people of Korea.

After a nearly a two-hour tour of the university, the group met up with the university's president, Dr. Yong Doo Lee, and his staff who gave us the warmest welcome we needed to get through the 70-degree weather.

The Daegu University staff prepared a nice dinner buffet and presented each visitor with Daegu University souvenirs. Mayor Tudela presented Dr. Lee with a DVD of Saipan and an information packet from the Marianas Visitors Authority. After the little gift exchange, we all took group pictures outside.

It was about 5pm when we finally left the university and called it a day. Almost the entire group was snoring during the long bus ride to the hotel.

To be continued.

JAYVEE VALLEJERA
Members of the 16th Annual CNMI Students Cultural Exchange Program under the sponsorship of the Junior Chamber International Pacific Saipan Inc. pose for a picture at the Saipan International Airport before departing for South Korea.

Perfecta Marianne Taitano
P.O. Box 502694
Saipan, MP 96950

PRO SE

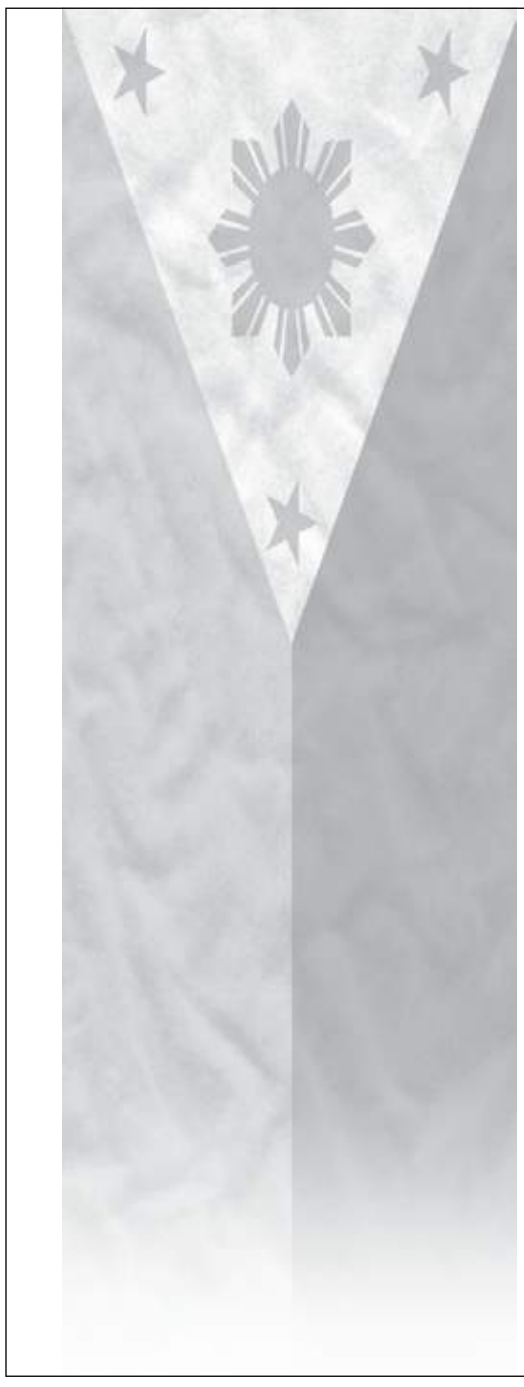
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME OF:	**FCD-CN CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0299**
MARIANN PERFECTA TAITANO FITIAL Petitioner.	**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on June 16, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A, before the Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court



We salute the Filipinos who fought for the ideals of justice, freedom and democracy.

Happy 110th Philippine Independence Day!

From the management and staff of

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

In this May 15, 2008 file photo, actors Brad Pitt, left, and Angelina Jolie arrive for the premiere of the film "Kung Fu Panda," during the 61st International film festival in Cannes, southern France.

AP

'Medieval' paparazzi laws could benefit Brangelina

PARIS (AP)—Perhaps Brangelina chose southern France for its blue skies, vineyards and the availability of an estate with a moat. But there's another reason the world's most famous expecting couple was smart to come here: French law is tough on paparazzi, especially when it comes to snapping photos of children.

That could come in handy after the birth of Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt's twins—particularly if they hope to sell rights to the first baby pictures for millions.

In France, where the Jolie-Pitts are believed to be setting up house to prepare for the births of children Nos. 5 and 6, other celebrities have waged war on gossip magazines with relentless, precedent-setting lawsuits.

Often, the tactic pays: Monaco's royal family grossed $681,120 through lawsuits in France in 2006, the newspaper Le Figaro has reported. On top of fines, magazines are regularly ordered to slap huge "mea culpa" notices across their covers.

"This country is medieval in terms of its legislation about printing information about celebrities," fumed Loic Sellin, editor of glossy Voici magazine. "It's shameful. Absolutely everything can be considered an attack on someone's private life."

Case in point: Former presidential candidate Segolene Royal won more than $12,000 from Paris Match magazine after it ran photos of her praying in an Italian church.

The lines are blurry and debatable, but there's general agreement on the need to shield children from the media glare. To avoid lawsuits, magazines regularly blur out the faces of celebrities' children or simply pull the photos.

The four Jolie-Pitt children—6-year-old Maddox, 4-year-old Pax, 3-year-old Zahara and 2-year-old Shiloh—are an exception, simply because they have been seen out in public so often.

But if any magazines were to obtain snapshots of Jolie and her as-yet-unborn twins, two French lawyers say they would counsel them to blur the babies' faces in most cases. Jolie has said in the past that the babies are due in August but there has been no further word.

"Let's say she went to the French Open with her children, I would say, 'she's out in public and knows she'll be seen, there's no reason to ban the photo,'" said lawyer Daphne Juster, who regularly defends photographers. "But if she's strolling in the park in sunglasses, minding her own business, she could say, 'I tried to be discreet, this is not part of my public life,' and can sue."

Emmanuel Pierrat, who defends both gossip magazines and celebrities, said he might urge magazines to run photos of the babies snuggling up against their mother, or turned from the camera, so their faces do not show. Of course, he says, "some would take the risk anyway."

In which case, he said, there would be an added incentive for Jolie and Pitt to sue: The couple sold exclusive photos of Shiloh to People magazine for a reported $4 million and donated the money to charity, a practice they're likely to duplicate, with rumors brewing of a bidding war inching toward $10 million this time around.

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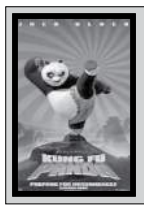
Mon - Thurs	1:20	4:10	7:10	

Peter Dinklage, Liam Neeson
Adventure, Fantasy • Rated PG

Synopsis

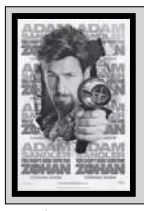
One year later, the Kings and Queens of Narnia find themselves back in that faraway wondrous realm, only to discover that more than 1,300 years have passed in Narnian time. During their absence, the Golden Age of Narnia has become extinct and Narnia has been conquered by the Telmarines and is now under the control of the evil King Miraz, who rules the land without mercy. The four children will soon meet a curious new character: Narnia's rightful heir to the throne, the young Prince Caspian, who has been forced into hiding, as his unde Miraz plots to kill him in order to place his own newborn son on the throne.



Kung Fu Panda

Fri and Sat	1:05	4:20	7:30	9:30
Sunday	1:05	4:20	7:30	
Mon - Thurs	1:05	4:20	7:30	

Jack Black (v), Dustin Hoffman (v)
Comedy, Action, Animation • Rated PG

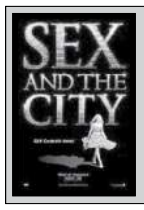


You Don't Mess with the Zohan

Fri and Sat	1:25	4:30	7:05	9:35
Sunday	1:25	4:30	7:05	
Mon - Thurs	1:25	4:30	7:05	

Adam Sandler, Rob Schneider
Action, Comedy • Rated PG-13

★ ★ ★



Sex and The City

Fri and Sat	1:15	4:15	7:00	9:45
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:00	
Mon - Thurs	1:15	4:15	7:00	

Sarah Jessica Parker, Kim Cattrall
Comedy, Romance • Rated R

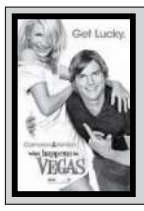
Synopsis

Set in the desert Southwest in 1957—at the height of the Cold War—ndy and his sidekick Mac have barely escaped a close scrape with nefarious Soviet agents on a remote airfield. Now, Professor Jones has returned home to Marshall College—only to find things have gone from bad to worse. His close friend and dean of the college explains that Indy's recent activities have made him the object of suspicion, and that the government has put pressure on the university to fire him.

Indiana Jones: Kingdom of the Crystal Skull

Fri and Sat	1:30	4:25	7:15	10:00
Sunday	1:30	4:25	7:15	
Mon - Thurs	1:30	4:25	7:15	

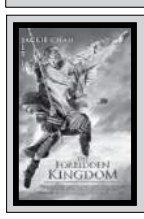
Harrison Ford, Cate Blanchett
Action Adventure • Rated PG-13



What Happens in Vegas

Fri and Sat	@	4:05	@	9:50
Sunday	@	4:05	@	
Mon - Thurs	@	4:05	@	

Cameron Diaz, Ashton Kutcher
Romantic Comedy • Rated PG-13



Forbidden Kingdom

Fri and Sat	1:10	@	7:20	@
Sunday	1:10	@	7:20	
Mon - Thurs	1:10	@	7:20	

Jet Li, Jackie Chan
Action Adventure • Rated PG-13

Iron Man

Fri and Sat	1:00	4:00	7:25	9:55
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:25	
Mon - Thurs	1:00	4:00	7:25	

Robert Downey Jr., Gwyneth Paltrow
Action Adventure • Rated PG-13

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Patrick Swayze to begin shooting new cable series

NEW YORK (AP)—Patrick Swayze is going back to work. The "Dirty Dancing" actor, who was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer earlier this year, will begin shooting his new A&E series "The Beast" in Chicago this summer, the cable network announced Monday.

A&E ordered 13 episodes of the one-hour drama, which stars Swayze, 55, as an unorthodox FBI agent who trains—and hazes—his new partner (portrayed by Travis Fimmel). It is scheduled to premiere early next year.

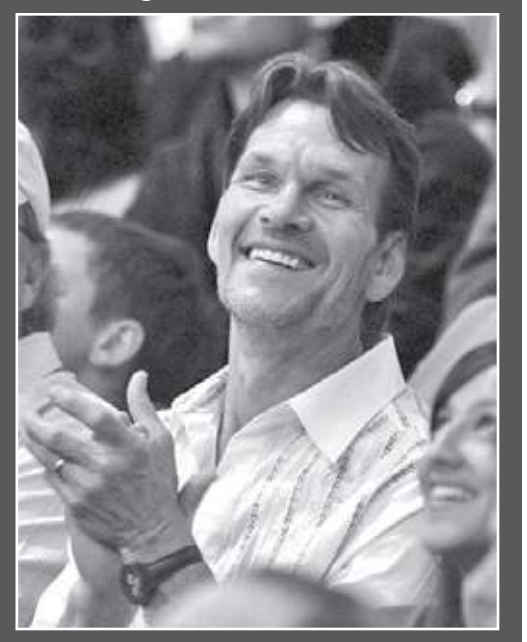
"I have searched for quite a long time to find a character that is this multi-layered, unpredictable and downright entertaining, as well as a project this current and cutting-edged," Swayze said in a statement.

"There are constant twists and turns, because we never know what this `Charles Barker' is going to do next! Not only is the show driven by plot, but as important, it's character driven," Swayze said.

The actor shot "The Beast" pilot last December, months before his cancer diagnosis surfaced in news reports.

Swayze's representative, Annett Wolf, confirmed to The Associated Press in early March that he was undergoing treatment for pancreatic cancer; meanwhile, his physician Dr. George Fisher issued a hopeful statement, saying Swayze had "a very limited amount of disease" and appeared "to be responding well to treatment."

Wolf declined comment Tuesday. A&E spokesman Dan Silberman said the network wasn't commenting beyond its news release announcing the greenlit series and statement from executive Bob DeBitetto, who professed to be "thrilled to have Patrick on board."



AP

In this May 23, 2008 file photo, actor Patrick Swayze watches the Los Angeles Lakers and San Antonio Spurs play in the first half in Game 2 of the NBA Western Conference basketball finals in Los Angeles.

Prosecutor: Winehouse spouse offered victim bribe

LONDON (AP)—Amy Winehouse's husband beat up a pub landlord and then offered him $400,000 to keep quiet about the attack, a prosecutor said Tuesday. Prosecution lawyer Sean Larkin said barman James King suffered a broken cheekbone in the June 2006 attack by Blake Fielder-Civil and another man—but was willing to accept money to spare his attackers jail.

King, 36, is on trial for conspiring to pervert the course of justice (the equivalent of obstruction of justice in the U.S.). He denies the charge, and says he was intimidated into withdrawing the assault claim.

Larkin told the jury at Snaresbrook Crown Court that a deal had been struck for King to retract his statement, leave the country and not show up for any trial, "and that Mr. King expected to be paid something in the order of 200,000 pounds."

AP

In this Feb. 20, 2008, file photo, Amy Winehouse performs at the Brit Awards 2008 in London.

Fielder-Civil, 26, pleaded guilty last week to perverting the course of justice, and also admitted assault. Three other men—James Kennedy, Anthony Kelly and Michael Brown—also pleaded guilty to involvement in the plot. All three face jail terms when they are sentenced later.

Larkin said Kennedy and Kelly contacted the Daily Mirror and tried to sell their story of the beating and the cover-up. The newspaper went to the police.

The lawyer said Daily Mirror journalist Stephen Moyes had asked whether Winehouse was involved.

"He was told by Kelly, `Who do you think is paying for it? Of course she is,'" Larkin said.

Harry Potter prequel auctioned

LONDON (AP)—An 800-word prequel to the Harry Potter series, handwritten by author J.K. Rowling, sold for nearly 25,000 pounds at a charity auction Tuesday.

With the winning bid of $48,858, the absent bidder paid more than $59 a word for Rowling's short story during the event at the flagship of Waterstone's book store chain in London. Proceeds will benefit the writers' association English PEN and a dyslexia charity.

A short mystery story by acclaimed playwright Tom Stoppard raised $7,816.

Rowling was able to squeeze her Harry Potter prequel onto both sides of a piece of A5 paper, which is slightly bigger than a postcard.

The prequel to the seven-book series is set three years before Harry is born and features the characters Sirius Black and James Potter, Harry's father. They get into trouble with a policeman before escaping with broomsticks, drumsticks and a little bit of magic.

Rowling made it clear there was no hope for a new Potter novel and finished her card by writing, "From the prequel I am not working on—but that was fun!"

Twelve other authors and illustrators also contributed cards to the auction, including Nobel Prize winner Doris Lessing and novelists Nick Hornby and Margaret Atwood.

Copies of all the cards will be on display in Waterstone's stores and online following the auction, and they will be collected into a book available in August.

The final installment of Rowling's seven-book Harry Potter series, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," was published last year.

Rowling has said she has no plans to write another novel about the boy wizard, but in December she sold a handwritten, leather-bound book of fairy tales she described as drawing on the series' themes for nearly $4 million at auction. The money went to the Children's Voice, a charity she co-founded in 2005.

AP

In this May 29, 2008 file photo, David Archuleta appears on the NBC "Today" television program, in New York's Rockefeller Center.

David Archuleta gets record deal

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—David Archuleta has a job lined up once his "American Idol" tour is over—not that there was any doubt.

The 17-year-old "Idol" runner-up has signed a deal with 19 Recordings/Jive Records, according to a Tuesday post on the Web site of the label managed by "Idol" creator Simon Fuller.

David Cook, 25, a former bartender from Blue Springs, Mo., won the "American Idol" title when the sixth season of Fox's top-rated singing competition wrapped up May 21. The title comes with a recording contract.

Kelly addresses judge at child pornography trial

CHICAGO (AP)—R. Kelly told the judge in his child pornography trial Tuesday that he doesn't plan to testify in his own defense.

After Judge Vincent Gaughan told Kelly he had a right to not testify, the R&B singer leaned forward at the defense table with his hands folded and—speaking for the first time at the trial—responded: "I decided not to testify."

The jury wasn't in the room at the time.

Kelly, 41, has pleaded not guilty to charges that he videotaped himself having sex with an underage girl. Both Kelly and the alleged victim, now 23, have denied being on the tape.

Also Tuesday, the judge ruled that jurors can view the sex tape once they begin deliberating.

Kelly's lawyers had asked the judge to bar jurors from reviewing the graphic video, saying they worried jurors would overemphasize one piece of evidence. But prosecutors argued the tape is the primary subject of the trial and couldn't be kept from jurors.

Prosecutors are scheduled to call two rebuttal witnesses. Closing arguments are likely to be delivered Thursday.

Kelly's attorneys surprised courtroom observers by resting their case Monday. Over two days, Kelly's lawyers called 12 witnesses. One was a forensics expert who testified there didn't appear to be a mole on the back of a man in a sex tape.

Defense attorneys say Kelly has a mole on his back, so the man on the tape can't be him. But a prosecution witness who'll take the stand for a second time is expected to challenge that claim.

AP

In this May 12, 2008 file photo, rapper Coolio attends the NBC Universal Experience at Rockefeller Center in New York.

Coolio arrested for driving with suspended license

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Coolio was arrested Tuesday on an outstanding misdemeanor warrant for driving with a suspended license, Los Angeles police said.

The 44-year-old rapper was released roughly five hours after officers pulled over his gray Hummer around 1:45 a.m. in Hollywood. He posted $10,000 bail.

Officers stopped him because the vehicle's registration was expired, but a check revealed his license was suspended and he had an outstanding warrant, Officer Ana Aguirre said.

Coolio, whose real name is Artis Leon Ivey Jr., gained fame for his 1995 single "Gansta's Paradise."

Australian film organization creates Ledger scholarship

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Heath Ledger was known for giving aspiring Australian actors a hand in Hollywood. Now, an Australian film organization has established a scholarship fund in the late actor's name to continue those efforts.

"There's an entire tribe of Australians who have all benefited from his generosity," said Susie Dobson, president of Australians in Film, or AiF. "This (scholarship) captures Heath's spirit and serves our mission to help and celebrate Australian filmmakers."

Ledger—who died at 28 of an accidental prescription drug overdose in January—had served as an ambassador for the film organization and its board wanted to honor him after his death, Dobson said.

Director Gregor Jordan announced the establishment of the Heath Ledger Scholarship Fund last week at AiF's annual Breakthrough Awards, where he read a statement from Ledger's father, Kim Ledger.

"Although reluctant to lend his name to anything commercial, we know Heath would be proud of his attachment to this scholarship," Kim Ledger's statement said. "This scholarship in part does what Heath has done personally during the last 10 years and supported financially or in kind many friends, Australian actors, singers, directors or writers seeking to ply their talents in the USA."

Jordan also said that Michelle Williams, mother of Ledger's daughter, "would be very proud and happy to be the first benefactor" of the scholarship fund.

The first recipient will be announced next year, Dobson said.

AP

In this Nov. 6, 2006 file photo, actor Heath Ledger arrives to the film premiere of Candy in New York.

Sad couple longs to share in the joy of grandparenting

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: Our kids have decided not to have kids. Although we have no choice but to accept it, and would never express our disappointment or lay a guilt trip on them, we still have feelings about it. It's our biggest sadness.

All the people we know have grandchildren. At holidays they have toys to buy, cookies to bake, dinners to plan. Our friends and relatives tell us that because we won't have grandkids we can buy ourselves something extra-special. It doesn't make us feel any better.

An entire chapter of our lives will be missing. No one will call us "Grandma" or "Grandpa." Are our feelings legitimate, or are we whining about nothing?

NOBODY'S GRANDMA

DEAR NOBODY'S GRANDMA: You are whining about something. However, if you feel left out because you won't be buying toys at holiday time, baking cookies and being called "Grandma" and "Grandpa," I have a suggestion for you. "Adopt" a needy family with small children and assume that role. You need only look as far as your nearest homeless shelter, program for abused women, or ask someone in Social Services to find one for you. I guarantee you'll be greeted with open arms and open hearts.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My mother is a hardworking farm woman in her early 60s who never bothered to take care of her skin. She recently went through menopause, and now her face looks much older than her years.

Mom is a good person. Every wrinkle and laugh line has been well-earned. However, several people have made comments to her like, "What happened to you? You look terrible!"

How should Mom respond to this? I suggested she say with smile, "I'm getting old, and I look it!" She feels that would be too harsh. Do you have a more subtle answer for these insensitive people?

PROUDLY AGING, READING, MINN.

DEAR PROUDLY AGING: There's an old saying: "It takes an enemy and a friend to hurt you to the core. The enemy to slander you, and the friend to get the 'news' to you." Your suggested response to the tactless individuals who would say such a thing to your mother isn't "harsh"—it's right on target. If your mother tried for something more subtle, the people wouldn't get the message.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My brother "Albert's" in-laws charge him and his new wife to attend family events. Example: When they are invited to the in-laws' lake house, they must bring $20 to cover the gas for the boat. Last Christmas they were charged $10 apiece for the family's annual shrimp boil, and $50 for a grandparent's birthday party.

The in-laws are not poor. They could well afford to host these events for their relatively small family. Albert and his wife, however, are newlyweds. They don't have a lot of spare cash. Nevertheless, their attendance at these family events is expected.

I believe to charge a guest money to attend a gathering like this is a social blunder. Albert says that's the price of marrying into the family. What do you think, Abby?

PROTECTIVE SIBLING, NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

DEAR PROTECTIVE SIBLING: Considering the fact that the in-laws have money, the practice is certainly unusual. However, your brother knew what he was getting into when he married into this family, and you should M.Y.O.B.

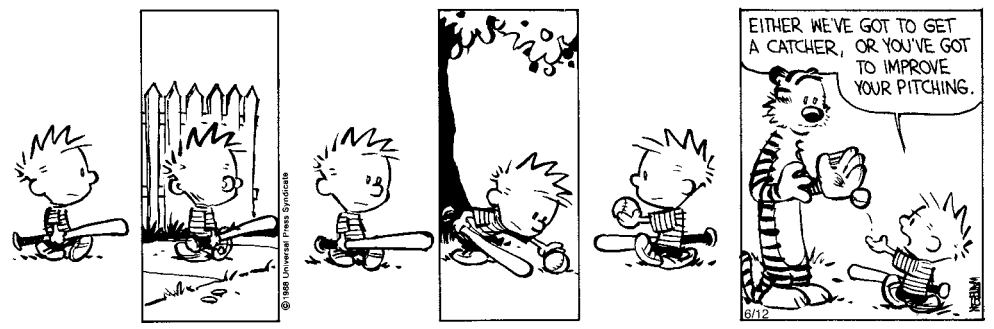
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis

ANOTHER BIRTHDAY...MAYBE IT'S TIME TO START THINKING ABOUT MY FUTURE
TIME TO START MAKING SOME PLANS...
TIME TO PUT THAT NEW HIP ON LAYAWAY
SO THAT'S WHY CATS EAT MICE
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www.garfield.com
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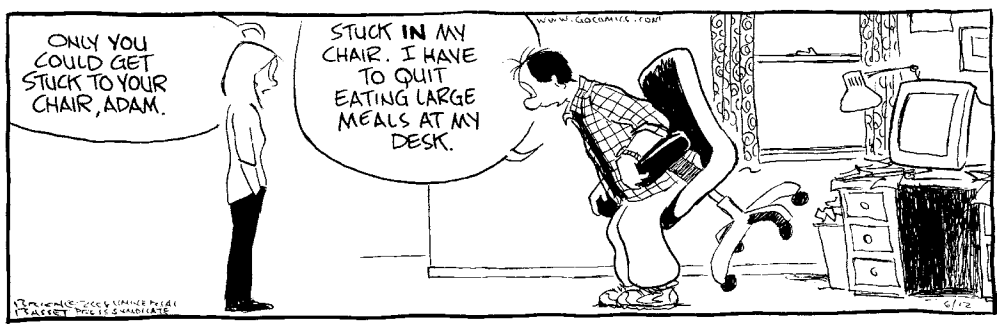
JIM DAVIS 6-12

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

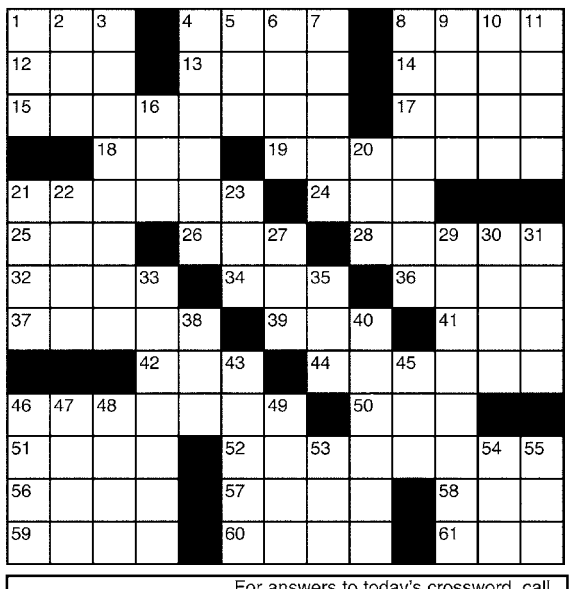
ACROSS
1 [Uncorrected]
4 Picnic invaders
8 Despot
12 Pitching stat
13 Gator bowl?
14 Top-rated
15 Jim Thorpe's alma mater
17 Memory method
18 Gripe repeatedly
19 Candy-apple coating
21 "I, Robot" author
24 PC alternative
25 Monarch (Abbr.)
26 Turn on the waterworks
28 Ball-bouncing game
32 McCarthy-era org.
34 Peruke
36 Sensible
37 Fitzgerald and Logan
39 Space
41 Harrison or Reed
42 Scepter
44 Poll
46 St. Lawrence explorer
50 "How — love thee"
51 Cincinnati's river
52 Papal subordinate
56 Sample recording
57 Ellipse
58 Wildebeest
59 "So be it"
60 Descartes or Magritte
61 Droop

DOWN
1 Moment
2 Savings-plan acronym
3 Fair
4 Pals (Sp.)
5 Ph. bk. data
6 Body powder
7 Watt's power source
8 Venezuela's capital
9 Go really fast
10 Initial stake
11 Fishing-pole attachment
16 Felon's flight
20 Rule, in old India
21 Tennis legend
22 Satan's purchase
23 Promise
27 Huge
29 Sculptures of a sort
30 Leg part
31 Alluring
33 Funny picture
35 Petrol
38 — -disant
40 Reason for Raleigh's chivalry
43 Interior design
45 King, in Calais
46 Last few notes
47 Throaty sound
48 Frost
49 Carry on
53 Scooted
54 Literary collection
55 Drag behind

Solution time: 25 mins.

I	M	P		V	A	S	E		I	V	A	N
S	E	A		I	C	E	S		N	I	L	E
M	O	P		S	T	E	P	C	H	I	L	D
S	W	A	M	I			Y	O	U			
			A	T	O	P		S	M	O	K	E
S	T	E	P	O	N	I	T		E	T	N	A
L	O	X		R	U	N	E	S		T	O	R
I	M	A	M		S	T	E	P	D	O	W	N
D	E	M	U	R		O	D	I	N			
			D	A	D			D	A	L	L	Y
S	T	E	P	H	A	N	I	E		Y	E	A
P	E	R	I		H	E	R	R		R	A	W
A	C	R	E		L	E	E	S		A	N	N

Yesterday's answer 6-12



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Frances O'Connor, 39; Marv Albert, 67; Chick Corea, 67; Jim Nabors, 78

Happy Birthday: Be willing to make adjustments if you want to become the master of your own universe. It will take disappointing some of the people in your life in order to set the record straight and find your own peace of mind. Strive for satisfaction on all counts. This is not the time to ignore what's wrong, so get moving. Your numbers are 4, 11, 20, 33, 38, 47

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Love, travel, adventure and using your imagination should all be put into play. You've been too serious and you need to laugh a little. A pleasure trip will take you in a new direction. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Take note of what needs to be done and start the process. It's better to get your responsibilities out of the way early. Clear up old debts and sort through your personal papers so you know where you stand financially. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Take a breather and do something enjoyable. Love is in a power position for you today so get out and do something with the one you love or get involved in an organization conducive to meeting singles. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't let your emotions lead you to distraction. You may find yourself caught up in an infatuation that manipulates your common sense. Before you do something rash, ask a loyal friend for advice. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): If you lend a helping hand, you will prosper. A change in your whereabouts will help you reach out to a whole new group of individuals who can enhance your life. Be honest about what you want. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Be creative but within reason and don't allow anything to spin out of control. If you don't keep a rein on what you are working on, whoever else is involved will take it in a direction that will cost you financially and emotionally. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Get out and meet people who have similar interests. You owe it to yourself to try your hand at activities and hobbies you are drawn to. Take a chance on love and either talk matters through or get on with life and love. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): It's OK to be nice but don't let anyone take advantage of you. Demand what is owed to you by putting pressure on the people who have promised but not delivered. Now is not the time to let others hold you back or make you look bad. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't think too big and you will be successful. Keeping things simple and being precise will help you get the benefit of those who can help you out. A partnership is evident. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): An opportunity will present itself and, if you act quickly and call in the connections you have, you will cinch a deal that will make others envious. Your attention to detail will give you the edge. A relationship will undergo change. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Money is heading in your direction and, with a little finesse and fair play, you can turn your current personal position around. Love is in the picture and the chance to expand your family, friends or a pastime you enjoy is looking good. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Think before you go out on a limb and try to do the impossible. You don't have to impress anyone in order to get ahead or make connections. Be yourself and offer only what you know you can deliver. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are charming, compassionate and caring. You are active, aggressive, unpredictable and confident that you can make a difference.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

8		2						4
			7		1			
5				6				
	7		1				6	
		9				7		
	4				2		9	
				5				9
			3		4			
2						4		5

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/12

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	7	8	6	1	4	3	2	5
2	4	1	5	7	3	9	8	6
6	3	5	8	9	2	4	7	1
5	9	6	3	8	7	1	4	2
7	1	3	2	4	5	6	9	8
8	2	4	1	6	9	5	3	7
1	6	2	9	3	8	7	5	4
4	5	9	7	2	6	8	1	3
3	8	7	4	5	1	2	6	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/11

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

PHILIPPINE EAGLES Solution: 9 letters

B	E	H	O	R	N	B	I	L	L	S	F	T	N	T
R	M	N	N	O	B	I	R	A	H	L	C	C	E	A
E	B	A	D	T	A	L	O	N	Y	E	C	R	S	R
E	L	C	O	A	S	T	R	I	T	O	R	W	T	S
D	E	E	P	D	N	E	N	O	N	I	O	I	I	U
O	M	T	R	E	E	G	R	S	T	O	P	L	N	S
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Bryant leads Lakers to 87-81 win in Game 3

LOS ANGELES (AP)—On his floor and on his game, Kobe Bryant revived the Los Angeles Lakers—and the NBA finals.

With his team one loss from having to make an impossible climb, Bryant was close to MVP form, scoring 36 points on an assortment of spins, drives and jumpers and reserve Sasha Vujacic added 20 points as the Lakers beat the Boston Celtics 87-81 in Game 3 on Tuesday night.

A change of time zones, jerseys and attitude did wonders for the Lakers, who staggered home from Boston in an 0-2 hole and couldn't afford to fall any further behind in the first best-of-seven matchup between the league's marquee teams since 1987.

No team in NBA playoff history has ever overcome an 0-3 deficit.

Bryant made sure the Lakers won't have to.

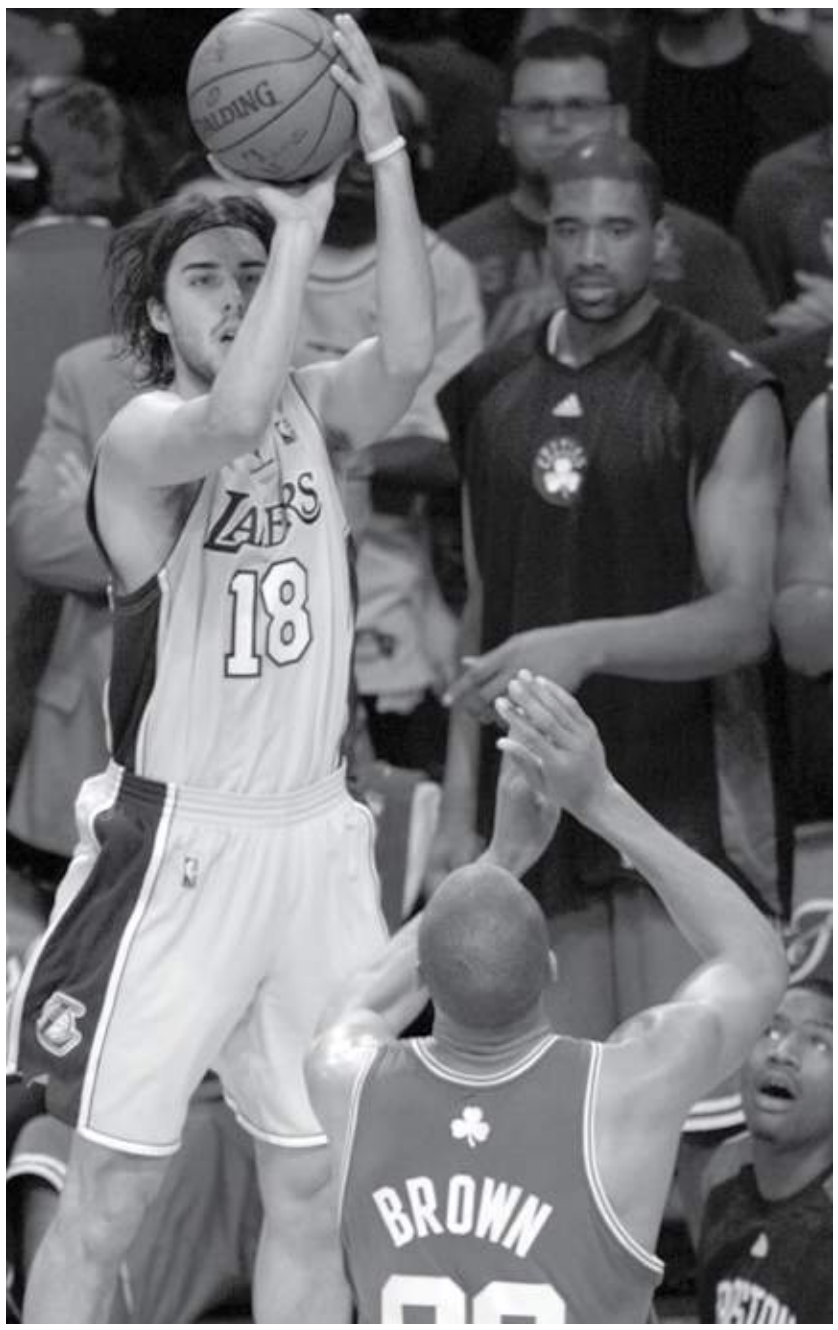
And this time, the superstar got some help.

Vujacic, the self-proclaimed "Machine," made three 3-pointers, including a crucial one from the left corner with 1:53 left that gave the Lakers an 81-76 lead. Pau Gasol finally flexed his muscles with two inside baskets in the fourth quarter and Derek Fisher, who took an $8 million pay cut to come back and play for the Lakers, made two free throws with 1:33 remaining as the Lakers held on.

"We just wanted to play," said Bryant, whose only flaw was an 11-of-18 night from the foul line. "I don't think anyone was feeling desperate."

Game 4 is Thursday night at the Staples Center, where the Lakers are 9-0 in the playoffs and unbeaten in 15 games since March 28.

But it took everything they had to keep that streak alive as the Celtics, two wins from their 17th NBA title but only 2-8 on the road in this postseason, made the Lakers play a more physical, Eastern Conference-style game and nearly walked away with a win.



AP

Los Angeles Lakers guard Sasha Vujacic (18), of Slovenia, shoots a three-pointer late in the second half of Game 3 of the NBA basketball finals as Boston Celtics forward P.J. Brown (93) guards, Tuesday, June 10, 2008, in Los Angeles.

Ray Allen scored 25 points—15 on 3-pointers—for the Celtics, but only one-third of Boston's Big Three showed up.

Kevin Garnett scored 13 points on just 6-of-21 shooting and Paul Pierce, playing a short drive from his childhood home, had only six points, missed 12 shots and was in foul trouble all night.

After Garnett's dunk brought the Celtics within 83-78 with 1:28 to go, Bryant made sure that it was he who took L.A.'s next shot. He drove on Allen to get some space, pulled up and drilled the kind of jumper he has practiced tens of thousands of times.

Eddie House, who gave Boston big minutes when Rajon Rondo went out with an injury, countered with a 3-pointer, and suddenly the Lakers' glitzy crowd, which included Jack Nicholson in his familiar courtside seat, grew uneasy.

But Bryant calmed their twitching nerves quickly.

On the Lakers' next possession, Bryant backed down in the lane and dropped in a short jumper to make it 87-81.

House missed for Boston, both teams committed silly offensive fouls in the closing seconds, and when the final horn sounded, the Lakers could finally relax.

Los Angeles is trying to become the fourth team to come back from an 0-2 deficit, and with two more games at home, they've got a chance to turn this renewed rivalry around.

Celtics coach Doc Rivers figured Bryant would take over the series at some point, but he didn't expect Vujacic, who scored a combined 16 points in Games 1 and 2, to be such a factor.

"Kobe was fantastic but I thought Vujacic was the key to the game," he said. "I said before we are going to have to win a game when Kobe Bryant plays well. We know that. But when that happens, we have to shut off the other avenues."

This game won't be remembered as one of the better ones in the storied Lakers-Celtics rivalry, but it did have a few moments of the physical nastiness that defined their matchups during the 1980s.

"It was not a beautiful ballgame," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said. "That's a transition game from East Coast to West Coast. But we'll have a day to catch up tomorrow and hopefully both of us will play better basketball on Thursday night."

With the Lakers down two and running out of time in the fourth, Bryant took a pass from Luke Walton at the top of the key. Knowing he was about to try a shot that could have lasting importance, Bryant gathered himself, measured the rim and let fly with a 3-pointer that gave Los Angeles a 69-68 lead with 6:55 left.

Fisher made two free throws and Bryant, who had missed seven from the line, knocked down two more foul shots as the Lakers went up 73-68.

Pierce grew up in Inglewood, Calif., where he learned to play in the shadow of the Fabulous Forum, the Lakers' former home where Magic Johnson, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and "Showtime" had an extended run of championship seasons.

But Pierce's finals homecoming was homely.

The Celtics' star forward, who came in averaging 25 points in the series, went just 2-for-14 and missed all four 3-pointers.

Despite his struggles, the Celtics were only down six early in the third quarter when Rondo went down with a sprained left ankle. As he laid on the floor, his teammates rushed over to check on Rondo, who limped off the court without aid—or a wheelchair—like Pierce famously needed after hurting his knee in the opener.

House, who hadn't played a minute in the series, replaced Rondo and drilled a 3-pointer and Garnett scored underneath before finally making a jumper as Boston took a 51-49 lead. Moments later, Allen stuck a 3-pointer that sent Boston's bench bounding onto the floor when the Lakers had to call a timeout.

Disgraced NBA ref: Playoff games were manipulated

NEW YORK (AP—NBA referees, influenced by cozy relationships with league officials, rigged a 2002 playoff series to force it to a revenue-boosting seven games, a former referee at the center of a gambling scandal alleged Tuesday.

Without identifying anyone or naming teams, Tim Donaghy also claimed the NBA routinely encouraged refs to ring up bogus fouls to manipulate results but discouraged them from calling technical fouls on star players to keep them in games and protect ticket sales and television ratings.

Speaking before the start of the NBA finals Game 3 featuring the Los Angeles Lakers and Boston Celtics, NBA commissioner David Stern called the allegations baseless.

"All I can say is that he's looking for anything that will somehow shorten the sentence, and it's not going to happen," Stern said.

The allegations were contained in a letter filed by a lawyer for Donaghy, who pleaded guilty last year to felony charges alleging he took cash payoffs from gamblers and bet on games himself. The 41-year-old Donaghy faces up to 33 months in prison at sentencing on July 14.

"If the NBA wanted a team to succeed, league officials would inform referees that opposing players were getting away with violations," the letter said. "Referees then would call fouls on certain players, frequently resulting in victory for the opposing team."

The league called Donaghy's allegations false and self-serving, saying the scandal was limited to him and two co-defendants, both former high school classmates who also pleaded guilty to gambling charges.

Donaghy's lawyer has sought to convince a federal judge in Brooklyn that Donaghy, of Bradenton, Fla., deserves more credit for coming forward before he was charged to disclose behind-the-scenes misconduct within the NBA. The letter, filed Monday, suggests prosecutors have hurt Donaghy's chances for a lesser prison term by downplaying the extent of his cooperation.

Donaghy's attorney, John Lauro, and prosecutors declined comment.

"He's a singing, cooperating witness who is trying to get as light a sentence as he can," Stern said. "He turned on basically all of his colleagues in an attempt to demonstrate that he is not the only one who engaged in criminal activity. The U.S. attorney's office, the FBI, have fully investigated it, and Mr. Donaghy is the only one who is guilty of a crime. And he will be sentenced for that crime regardless of the desperate attempts to implicate as many people as he can."

In one of several allegations of corrupt refereeing, Donaghy said he learned in May 2002 that two referees known as "company men" were working a best-of-seven series in which "Team 5" was leading 3-2. In the sixth game, he alleged the referees purposely ignored personal fouls and called "made-up fouls on Team 5 in order to give additional free throw opportunities for Team 6."

"Team 6" won the game and came back to win the series, the letter said.

Only the Los Angeles Lakers-Sacramento Kings series went to seven games during the 2002 playoffs. And the Lakers went on to win the championship.

At the time, consumer advocate Ralph Nader and the League of Fans, a sports industry watchdog group, sent a letter to Stern complaining about the officiating in Game 6 of the Western Conference finals.

The Lakers, who beat Sacramento 106-102 in that game in Los Angeles, shot 27 free throws in the final quarter and scored 16 of their last 18 points at the line.

The letter also alleged manipulation during a 2005 playoff series.

"Team 3 lost the first two games in the series and Team 3's owner complained to NBA officials," the letter said. "Team 3's owner alleged that referees were letting a Team 4 player get away with illegal screens. NBA Executive Y told Referee Supervisor Z that the referees for that game were to enforce the screening rules strictly against that Team 4 player. ... The referees followed the league's instructions and Team 3 came back from behind to win the series. The NBA benefited from this because it prolonged the series, resulting in more tickets sold and more televised games."

In that same series, the letter says "Team 3" lost the first two games of the series and that team owner complained to NBA officials. The letter also alleges that the opposing team's coach later was fined $100,000 after revealing an NBA official informed him of the behind-the-scenes instructions.

That would correspond with the 2005 first-round playoff series between the Houston Rockets and the Dallas Mavericks, in which Mark Cuban complained to officials and Jeff Van Gundy was fined.

Donaghy's letter said that in the first of several meetings with prosecutors and the FBI in New York in 2007, he named names while describing "various examples of improper interactions and relationships between referees and other league employees, such as players, coaches and management." For example, it said, referees broke NBA rules by hitting up players for autographs, socializing with coaches and accepting meals and merchandise from teams.

"The NBA remains vigilant in protecting the integrity of our game and has fully cooperated with the government at every stage of its investigation," Richard Buchanan, NBA executive vice president and general counsel, said in a statement. "The only criminal activity uncovered is Mr. Donaghy's."

Donaghy, who pleaded guilty last year to charges he conspired to engage in wire fraud and transmitted betting information through interstate commerce, has said he made NBA bets for four years, even wagering on games he worked. He also admitted recommending bets to high-stakes gamblers and collecting $5,000 if his picks hit.

Sabathia gets 7th career in shutout of Twins

CLEVELAND (AP)—C.C. Sabathia pitched his seventh career shutout as the Cleveland Indians beat Minnesota 1-0 in the American League on Tuesday, extending the Twins' season-high losing streak to six games.

Sabathia didn't allow a baserunner after the fourth inning, striking out five without a walk in his second shutout of the season.

He retired the last 17 batters in a row and was helped by some bad baserunning by the Twins.

The game's only run came in the first inning.

Blue Jays 3, Mariners 1

In Toronto, Dustin McGowan pitched his third career complete game to steer Toronto to a speedy win over Seattle.

McGowan retired the final 10 batters as the Blue Jays needed just 2 hours, 2 minutes to win.

Vernon Wells and Brad Wilkerson each homered for the Blue Jays. Wilkerson hit a tiebreaking homer in the fifth against the team that cut him earlier this season.

Orioles 10, Red Sox 6

In Boston, Baltimore twice came from behind to hand Boston just its second home defeat in 17 games.

Aubrey Huff matched his career high with four hits, including a tying two-run single, for the Orioles, who rebounded from deficits of 1-0 and 6-4.

Huff's two-run single tied the game 6-6 in the seventh.

Tigers 6, White Sox 4

In Detroit, the home side snapped Chicago's seven-game winning streak.

Miguel Cabrera hit the go-ahead two-run single in the fifth inning. Trailing 2-1, the Tigers scored three times in the fifth to take a lead they wouldn't give up.

Rangers 6, Royals 5

In Kansas City, Missouri, Texas got five unearned runs to rally from four down to beat Kansas City.

Ian Kinsler scored the go-ahead run on a passed ball in the ninth inning. Kinsler led off the ninth with a double, advanced on a groundout and scored from third when Ramon Ramirez's pitch got away from catcher John Buck.

An error in the eighth opened the door for the Rangers to score four runs off three Kansas City relievers with two outs to tie the score 5-all.

Yankees 3, Athletics 1

In Oakland, California, pitcher Chien-Ming Wang ended the worst stretch of his career with his first win in seven starts to steer New York past Oakland.

Melky Cabrera hit a homer in the ninth inning for the Yankees.

After a 6-0 start to his season, Wang hadn't won since his May 2 and had been tagged for 23 earned runs in his past four outings. He allowed just one run in 7 1-3 innings Tuesday.

Angels 6, Rays 1

In Anaheim, California, Garret Anderson and Vladimir Guerrero both hit two-run homers as Los Angeles downed Tampa Bay.

Angels pitcher Jared Weaver held the Rays, who pounded 13 runs in Monday's game, to just one run.

The Angels took a grip on the game early, with four runs and six hits in the first inning.

Marlins 5, Phillies 4

In Miami, Hanley Ramirez led off the game with one of Florida's three home runs as the Marlins beat the Philadelphia Phillies.

The Marlins closed within three games of the Phillies' lead atop the division.

Philadelphia had been bidding for its first five-game lead in the standings since 2001.

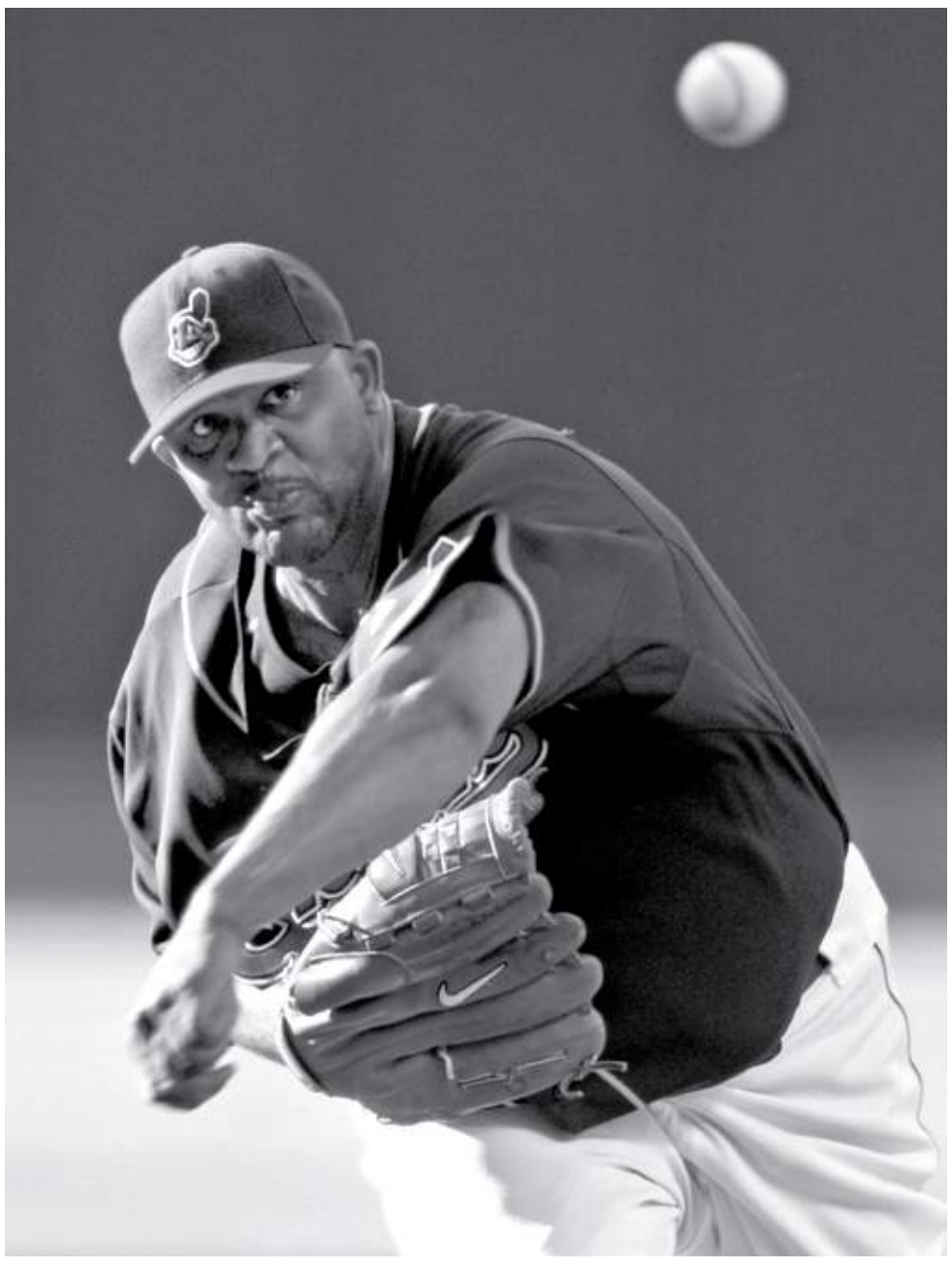
Cardinals 7, Reds 2

In Cincinatti, Ryan Ludwick homered, doubled twice and drove in four runs to lead St. Louis over Cincinatti.

Cardinals star Albert Pujols was helped off the field in the top of the seventh inning with a strained left calf he suffered while running out a ground ball. The injury will be evaluated Wednesday.

Nationals 7, Pirates 6

In Pittsburgh, Lasting Milledge's two-run shot with two outs in the ninth gave Washington a wild win over Pittsburgh.



AP

Cleveland Indians' C.C. Sabathia pitches against the Minnesota Twins in the first inning of a baseball game Tuesday, June 10, 2008, in Cleveland. Sabathia pitched a complete game to get the 1-0 win.

Ronnie Belliard hit two homers and added an RBI single during his first game back from the disabled list and the Nationals broke a four-game losing streak.

Pittsburgh's Matt Capps had been 15-for-15 in save opportunities and appeared headed to his third save in as many days when he got two quick outs to open the ninth. But on successive pitches Elijah Dukes doubled to right and Milledge homered to left.

Astros 6, Brewers 1

In Houston, Lance Berkman homered and hit a three-run triple to key Houston's win over Milwaukee.

Berkman's 19th homer of the season gave Houston a 2-0 lead in the first. Berkman is second in the majors in home runs and is the leader in runs scored and extra base hits. Berkman, who also had a single, is hitting .379.

Roy Oswalt pitched seven solid innings for his first win in almost a month. He broke a three game losing streak, allowing only one run with a season high 10 strikeouts.

Cubs 10, Braves 5

In Chicago, pitcher Ted Lilly settled down after a shaky start to get his first win in three weeks, steering Chicago past Atlanta.

Derrek Lee and Geovany Soto homered for the Cubs, who continued their dominant play at Wrigley Field. Lee had a solo shot in the third to tie the game and Soto a three-run drive in the eighth to put it away.

Braves' starter Tom Glavine had to leave after three innings with a left elbow strain, adding to the Braves' injury woes.

Diamondbacks 9, Mets 5

In New York, the home team slumped to its fifth straight loss at the hands of Arizona.

Chris Snyder hit a tiebreaking homer in the eighth inning to give the Diamondbacks victory.

New York squandered a 5-1 cushion and dropped to a season low of three games below .500.

Rockies 10, Giants 5

In Denver, Colorado ended San Francisco's seven-game road winning streak.

Aaron Cook threw seven efficient innings and Todd Helton hit a three-run homer for the Rockies, who won for the 600th time at home.

Cook had his sinker working, getting nine groundball outs while giving up only three earned runs.

Dodgers 7, Padres 2

In San Diego, Russell Martin and Matt Kemp each drove in two runs in Los Angeles' four-run seventh inning, which propelled the Dodgers past San Diego.

The Dodgers took advantage of some sloppy fielding by the Padres, whose season-high five-game winning streak was ended.

Bulls: Vinny Del Negro accepts head coaching job

CHICAGO (AP)—Vinny Del Negro has accepted his first head coaching job, agreeing to take over a Chicago Bulls team that went from 49 wins to 49 losses in a season and missed the playoffs after making the second round in 2007.

Bulls general manager John Paxson plans to introduce Del Negro as the team's new coach at a Wednesday afternoon news conference, team spokesman Matt Yob said Tuesday.

His selection ends a drawn-out search in which the Bulls' high-profile courtships of Mike D'Antoni and Doug Collins collapsed.

Paxson did not immediately return a phone call seeking comment. Del Negro, whose voicemail box was full Tuesday, did not immediately return a page.

Del Negro, most recently the Phoenix Suns' assistant general manager, interviewed for the job last week and quickly moved to the top of the list after Collins and chairman Jerry Reinsdorf decided to pass on a reunion.

Del Negro had been interested in replacing D'Antoni on the Suns' sideline but did not make general manager Steve Kerr's list of four finalists. That job went to Terry Porter.

Instead of guiding a Western Conference power, Del Negro takes over one of the league's biggest disappointments this past season.

A sluggish start cost coach Scott Skiles his job in December, and interim coach Jim Boylan got fired April 17, but the Bulls' luck took a turn for the better when they won the draft lottery.

With the coaching situation resolved, they can turn their attention toward this month's No. 1 pick and deciding between Derrick Rose and Michael Beasley.

Del Negro, who played for Jim Valvano at N.C. State, averaged 9.1 points in a little more than 11 seasons for Sacramento, San Antonio, Milwaukee, Golden State and Phoenix. He also played in Italy.

Trying to assess Del Negro's coaching style would amount to speculation, but his hiring might be a letdown for fans who wanted D'Antoni or Collins.

The Bulls were poised to make an offer to D'Antoni in early May only to see him jump from the Phoenix Suns to the New York Knicks before hearing chairman Jerry Reinsdorf's presentation. Collins, who coached Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen before they started collecting championships, emerged as the leading candidate a few weeks later, but a deal fell apart.

Concerned that a second tenure would strain their friendship, Collins and Reinsdorf broke off talks Friday.

Paxson also had Sacramento Kings assistant Chuck Person and former Minnesota coach Dwane Casey in for second interviews, but Del Negro shot past them.

He inherits a team that expected to contend in the Eastern Conference after a first-round playoff sweep of Miami in 2007—Chicago's first series victory since the championship era—and a six-game loss to Detroit in the second round. But the high hopes quickly turned into empty promises.

The Kobe Bryant trade rumors and failed contract negotiations with Luol Deng and Ben Gordon—who turned down five-year extensions worth more than $50 million—set a bad tone the Bulls could not change.

The unselfishness and hard-nosed defense that defined them in recent years was missing. Individual agendas took over, and players argued with each other and their coaches.

Joakim Noah, last year's first-round pick, lashed out at assistant Ron Adams in January and was initially suspended one game before teammates voted to make it two. Noah also clashed with Ben Wallace, who went to Cleveland in the Larry Hughes trade. And just last month Noah was arrested in Gainesville, Fla., for having an open container of alcohol and also was charged with marijuana possession.

Tyrus Thomas skipped practice, Chris Duhon missed a shootaround the day after he attended a Duke-North Carolina game, and Andres Nocioni had words with Boylan during a game. Duhon is an unrestricted free agent who probably won't be back.

It's hard to say whether players who tuned out Skiles and Boylan will respond to a rookie coach. Then again, it's not clear how many of them will be with the team next season. Paxson figures to make a few roster moves besides choosing between Rose or Beasley, assuming the Bulls keep the No. 1 pick.

WHELAN

From Page 28

to the longer distances, having won the gold in the 5,000m at the 2007 Pacific Games in Apia.

For the CNMI, veteran long distance runner Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel will banner the host islands' best hope in the cross country despite having turned 34 years old.

Guam, meanwhile, has entered five athletes in the Open Women's race led by 43-year-old Marie Benito. Marshall Islands and Samoa have one entry each.

The Under-18 3-kilometer men's and women's cross country are dominated by entries from Micronesia.

According to OAA, this reflects the strong Cross Country culture that is evident in the islands north of the equator.

While Guam has four of the six entries in the Under-18 men's event, New Zealand's Laura Nagel appears to be one of the early favorites in the U18 Women's event.

Cross Country will be held on June 25, 6am at the sprawling Laolao Bay Golf Resort in Kagman.

SHULTZ

From Page 28

so much more than many of us ever know behind the scenes to give us the game," she said.

Shultz, who kicked the winning goal in her team's victory in the finals against Matt Smith's Smithereens last Saturday, was pleasantly surprised by how women's soccer has improved in two shorts years.

"All the teams are really improving. There is a lot of good soccer being played in the women's program. It is amazing to see the growth of skills among the league as a whole in comparison to the Spring Season of 2006 when we first began. Congratulations to all the women players! It's been exciting to see more and more high school and junior high girls come out for the teams. They are our future and hopefully they will choose to go out for the CNMI National Team next season," she said.

Shultz also extended her gratitude to 2008 Women's Recreational Football League sponsors, namely PIC, Mathew Smith, Wild Bill's, and Marianas Eye Institute for keeping soccer affordable for all women.

"You are doing great things for the women in our community. Everyone knows times are tough and sports are a great way for people to stay positive and healthy. Thank you so much!" she said.

Schultz booted her team to the championship of the 2008 Women's Recreational Spring Football League after scoring the marginal goal in overtime against Smithereens last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field.

After both teams finished the 80-minute game all tied up at 1-1, Shultz found the back of the net following a strong penalty kick in the five-minute mark of the first 15-minute overtime.

It was Schultz's second goal of the game.

In the second 15-minute extension, a major offensive attempt was made by the Smithereens as they surged past the PIC defense and were well within the 18-yard line before a gutsy save by PIC Noi Horey thwarted the near scoring of the Smithereens.

Paradise In Cleats then held the score to 2-1 finishing out the overtime and taking home the league's perpetual trophy.

Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition

The Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition would like to thank the following for supporting the "2008 Bingo for Life" fundraiser:

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- Larissa S. Flores & Evelyn Cangco

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Kiss My Pass leads beach V-ball

With one regular season play date left, Kiss My Pass has a half game lead over 15 of Fame and Fatingali in the 2008 Miller Lite 4-Person Beach Volleyball League played at the Pacific Islands Club sand courts.

Entering its match against Angan last night, Kiss My Pass has won 12 games against a loss. 15 of Fame and Fatingali are tied at 11-2 with Angan completing the Top 4 at 10-3.

Tuesday's matches, meanwhile, saw Tsunami take three sets to beat MHS Peers (11-0, 2-11, 11-4), Brabu skunk Gigi, MHS Okies surprise Spike'A'Saurus (11-2, 11-4, 11-9), and 15 of Fame get the better of 670 Boom Boom (11-4, 11-7, 11-0).

Last night's other games saw MHS Peers take on Spike'A'Saurus in the 5:30pm game, MHS Okies face Tsunami at 6:30pm, and Fatingali square off against Spiked Punch in the 7:30pm match. Results, however, were still not available as of press time.

Other participating teams in the 2008 Miller Lite 4-Person Beach Volleyball League are Herbalizers (6-7), Snap Crackle Pop (5-9), Spiked Punch (4-9), MHS Young Gunz (4-10), and Spiked Punch (4-9). ***(Mark Rabago)***

SAIPAN

From Page 28

Saipan Major League All-Stars was Randall Aguon of the Red Sox, while Ol'Aces' Elmer Sablan and Patriots' Many Sablan will serve as head coach and assistant coach.

The Saipan Senior All-Stars, meanwhile, are made up of Jets' Juan Iguel, David Camacho, John Pangelinan, Josh Jones, and Ryan Lisua, Dolphins' Anthony Rogolifoi, John Paul Lizama, Nokki Saralu, and Ofero Taitano, Lion King's Wally Emul Jr., Fielders' Vicente Flores, Iaonnis Rasa, Juan Maratita, Anthony Tenorio, and Tom Agulto, and D9ers' Eric Tenorio.

Managing the team is Derron Flores of the Jets, while Marvin Tydingco and Roy Celis serve as head coach and assistant coach, respectively.

Saipan Little League Baseball Association vice president Michael Borja will act as the tournament director in all district tournaments in the CNMI and was also appointed in the same capacity for the Junior League Regional Tournament by no less than Ada.

NMASA

From Page 28

(male, female, male student, and female student) during the June general membership meeting.

NMASA reminds associations that will be nominating their athletes to submit written nominations in multiple copies to be distributed to members during the meeting.

Among the topics also set to be discussed during the meeting will be the CNMI's participation in the 2009 Pacific Mini Games in the Cook Islands. ***(Mark Rabago)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE
East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	40	27	.597	–
Tampa Bay	38	27	.585	1
New York	33	32	.508	6
Baltimore	32	31	.508	6
Toronto	34	33	.507	6

Central Division

Chicago	37	27	.578	–
Minnesota	31	34	.477	6 1/2
Cleveland	30	35	.462	7 1/2
Detroit	27	37	.422	10
Kansas City	25	40	.385	12 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	40	26	.606	–
Oakland	34	30	.531	5
Texas	33	33	.500	7
Seattle	23	42	.354	16 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE
East Division

Philadelphia	39	27	.591	–
Florida	35	29	.547	3
Atlanta	32	33	.492	6 1/2
New York	30	33	.476	7 1/2
Washington	26	40	.394	13

Central Division

Chicago	41	24	.631	–
St. Louis	39	27	.591	2 1/2
Milwaukee	33	31	.516	7 1/2
Houston	33	32	.508	8
Pittsburgh	31	34	.477	10
Cincinnati	31	35	.470	10 1/2

West Division

Arizona	35	30	.538	–
Los Angeles	31	33	.484	3 1/2
San Francisco	29	36	.446	6
San Diego	28	38	.424	7 1/2
Colorado	25	39	.391	9 1/2

Yesterday's Games
Washington 7, Pittsburgh 6
Arizona 9, N.Y. Mets 5
Florida 5, Philadelphia 4
St. Louis 7, Cincinnati 2
Chicago Cubs 10, Atlanta 5
Houston 6, Milwaukee 1
Colorado 10, San Francisco 5
L.A. Dodgers 7, San Diego 2
Baltimore 10, Boston 6
Cleveland 1, Minnesota 0
Detroit 6, Chicago White Sox 4
Toronto 3, Seattle 1
Texas 6, Kansas City 5
N.Y. Yankees 3, Oakland 1
L.A. Angels 6, Tampa Bay 1

LOCAL SCORES

NMIVA Beach Volleyball Standards

	W	L	PF	PA	SW
Kiss My Pass	12	1	305	227	33
15 of Fame	11	2	403	205	33
Fatingali	11	2	286	229	31
Angan	10	3	341	269	24
Tsunami	8	4	298	250	21
MHS Peers	8	5	284	287	19
Herbalizers	6	7	344	329	20
MHS Okies	6	7	336	328	18
Spike'A'Sauras	5	7	260	308	13
Snap Crackle Pop	5	9	340	361	17
Spiked Punch	4	9	261	236	16
MHS Young Gunz	4	10	407	398	14
670 Boom Boom	3	9	197	315	14
Gigi	3	11	219	313	8
Brabu	2	12	252	415	10

Tsunami sweeps Pacific Islands Club

Photos and Text By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Saturday was the only time a tsunami was welcome at Pacific Islands Club as more than 70 swimmers and parents of Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan held their first-anniversary banquet and waterpark party at the San Antonio landmark.

The highlight of the event was the recognition ceremony where Marianas High School student Rezne Wong won the Most Outstanding Swimmer award and first-year swimmer Daniel Villegas received the Tsunami Citizenship Award.

Other swimmers that received annual awards were Marystar Welch (Best Effort Award), Kensuke Kimura (Funniest Swimmer Award), Shin Kimura (Sportsmanship Award), and Louie Nigh and Joey Night (Healthy Swimmer Award).

Tsunami Saipan also gave Hard Worker awards to Coloma Castro (beginners), Blessilda Maratita (tryout), Kaito Yanai (advance).

Named Most Improved Swimmers, meanwhile, were Mary Grace Maglalang, Daniel Camacho, Angel De Jesus, Arthur Sondhei, Kentaro Kitagawa, and Phillip Yoon (freestyle), Salofi Welch, Takumi Sugie, Angel Tan, and Ryosei Toda (breaststroke), Thea Minor, Alina Yoon, and Ritsuki Umeda (butterfly), Moena Takagi and Hiroto Yanai (backstroke), Fumika Umeda, Ashley Welch, and Edward Minami (diving), and Sam Park, Kaisei Toda, Daisuke Fitial, and Kosei Toda (kicking).

Last but not the least, Marianas Resort and Spa employee Gary De Guzman was given a Certificate of Appreciation for all his hard work maintaining the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool clean and conditioning it.

Wong and the Kimura brothers also showed off their musical talents as they wowed the crowd by playing one of ukulele virtuoso Jake Shimabukuro's hits.

Rezne Wong received Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's Most Outstanding Swimmer award during the club's first-year anniversary banquet and waterpark party held Saturday at Charley's Cabaret of Pacific Islands Club. Also in photo are Tsunami Saipan president Stan Good, left, and head coach Hiro Kimura.

Daniel Villegas wears the Tsunami Citizenship Award medal around his neck and shows off Tsunami Saipan T-shirt signed by the club's members.

Tsunami Saipan swimmers that took part in local and off-island meets share the stage at Charley's Cabaret.

Tsunami Saipan's Hard Worker awardees Coloma Castro (beginners), Blessidla Maratita (tryout), and Kaito Yanai (advance) pose with club president Stan Good and head coach Hiro Kimura.

Rezne Wong and brothers Shin and Kensuke Kimura wowed the crowd by playing one of ukulele virtuoso Jake Shimabukuro's hits.

All Tsunami Saipan swimmers demonstrate one of their famous cheers on stage.

Millet Wong served as the emcee of Tsunami Saipan's first-year anniversary banquet and waterpark party.

Tsunami Saipan president Stan Good poses with the club's Funniest Swimmer awardee, Kensuke Kimura.

Tsunami Saipan's Marystar Welch shows off her Best Effort Award certificate as president Stan Good looks on.

Tsunami sweeps Pacific Islands Club

Saturday was the only time a tsunami was welcome at Pacific Islands Club as more than 70 swimmers and parents of Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan held their first-anniversary banquet and waterpark party at the San Antonio landmark.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Bryant leads Lakers to 87-81 win in Game 3

On his floor and on his game, Kobe Bryant revived the Los Angeles Lakers–and the NBA finals.

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Saipan teams favored on Rota

MARK RABAGO

The Saipan Major All-Star Team, left, and the Saipan Senior All-Star Team take their respective positions on the outfield during last Saturday's opening of the 2008 CNMI Junior District Tournament at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The 2008 CNMI Major and Senior District tournaments start today on Rota with Saipan All-Stars favored against their counterparts from host Rota and neighboring Tinian.

District administrator James Ada flew to the southernmost chain of the CNMI Tuesday and said he doesn't expect any major problems during the two-day competition.

The Major League District Tournament will be played at the new Joaquin Ogo Sr. Baseball Field in Sinapalo, while the Senior League District Tournament will be held at the old ballpark in Songsong Village.

Ada noted that while playing venues will be different, the opening ceremony for both tournaments will be held at the Joaquin Ogo Sr. Baseball Field at around 9am.

All-Stars teams from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota will play in a double round-robin format in both divisions today with the top two teams squaring off in the finals tomorrow, June 13.

The winning team will represent the Commonwealth in the regional tournaments for both divisions set at the end of the month here on Saipan.

The Saipan Major All-Stars are bannered by four players from the division's three-time champions SaipanCell Patriots.

Headlining this year's top 9-12-year-old ballplayers are Patriots flame-throwing pitcher Chris Mizer, third baseman Jeremy Rabauliman, shortstop Jared Sablan, and catcher Jun Rabauliman.

Joining them in the lineup are two Hustlers I pitchers Raymond Saralu and A.J. Lizama, Pirates infielders first baseman Frankie Camacho and second baseman Jonah Flores as well as Red Sox leftfielder Jerome Reyes, Little Lions centerfielder Keene Deleon Guerrero, PTI Dolphins rightfielder R.J. Knecht, Braves catcher Ricky Joe Riungel, and pitchers Jeremy Lizama of Ol'Aces and Poland Masaharu of Survivors.

Selected as manager of the

See SAIPAN on Page 26

Whelan, Curreen headline Cross Country

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Cross Country will kick off the 2008 Oceania Championships set here on Saipan at the end of this month.

According to the Oceania Athletics Association's website the Open Men's 6-kilometer event has the most number of participants with 13 entries.

Leading the list is Brendan Whelan of Australia. The 35-year-old won the silver medal in the last Oceania Championship held in 2006 in Apia, Samoa.

Samoa's Aunese Curreen is also one of the favorites especially since he is in the final stages of preparations for the 800m event at the Beijing Summer Olympics.

According to the federation's website, Curreen is also the Pacific Islands' record holder for the 800m. He is also no stranger

See WHELAN on Page 26

Curreen

Whelan

Shultz: Women's football improving

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Pacific Islands Club's Paradise in Cleats captain Brenda Shultz the other day thanked organizers of the 2008 Women's Recreational Football League and said women's soccer on Saipan is on the rise because of such programs.

"I would like to thank [Women's Committee director] Francine Sablan and the whole committee for all their endless work organizing the women's program. They have done an excellent job promoting women's soccer in the CNMI. They do

See SHULTZ on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pacific Islands Club's Paradise in Cleats captain Brenda Shultz hugs the perpetual trophy after her team beat Matt Smith's Smithereens, 2-1, in overtime last Saturday in the finals of the 2008 Women's Recreational Football League.

NMASA June general membership meeting tonight

The Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association will hold its regular monthly meeting tonight, June 12, 7pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

The meeting was originally scheduled last Thursday, June 5, but a scheduled load shedding that day forced NMASA to reset the *tete-a-tete* a week later.

NMASA president Michael A. White also requested all members of the NMASA Board of directors to stay for a brief board meeting following the general membership meeting.

As always, NMASA member associations will vote for the best athletes for the previous month (May) in four categories

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